The Quarterly Journal

of the New York State Historical Association

VOL. X JANUARY, 1929 No. 1

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION AT WATERTOWN

The twenty-ninth Annual Meeting of the New York State Historical Association was held at Watertown and nowhere has the Association met a more generous welcome. To most of the members the local history of the North Country was a revelation, as surprising as it was romantic.

The afternoon of Wednesday, September 26th, was given over to registration, an informal gathering of members, and the inspection of the library and collections of the Jefferson County Historical Society, which was headquarters. For the occasion there had been arranged a most unusual loan exhibition of Indian artifacts of the county from the collections of Robert D. Loveland of Adams Center, Frederick B. Osborn of Adams, Vallette Swartout of St. Lawrence village, George K. Bates of Dexter, Arthur R. Knapp of Watertown, Charles H. Congdon and E. N. Lucas of Chaumont.

The formal sessions were opened in the evening with an address of welcome by Harry F. Landon, city historian, speaking for Mayor Harris, who said:

WELCOME BY HARRY F. LANDON

The mayor and people of this city welcome you, turning over the keys of the city, as it were, to your use. We beseech you to take time while here to inspect our beautiful parks, public buildings and points of interest in the city. The people of Watertown are keenly appreciative of New York state's history. Here in this city and surrounding country lies a history as entrancing as any in the state.

It dates back to a period five years before the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth. About 250 years ago the Jesuits started their difficult task of Christianizing the Indians in this section of

the country, naming the streams and harbors, the names of which in most instances have long since vanished. The names of Lamoille, La Salle and Frontenac have always been associated with the history of this region.

The Onondagas were settled in this territory long before the conference of the Six Nations was even dreamed of. The remains of the Onondagas may still be found in the vicinity of Watertown; and Sandy Creek, only a short distance from this city, is alleged to have been the home of Hiawatha, the story of whom is half myth and half legend.

The history of this section may be viewed with a broad outline presenting a colorful page of events. Sackets Harbor was the scene of the rallying of troops during the War of 1812. Following this came the arriving of the Napoleonic refugees from France, who, while here, were continually thinking of their great leader, Napoleon, then at St. Helena. This sort of history produces novels.

Then comes the period of Silas Wright, who ruled with a benign hand, and Martin Van Buren. These were followed in rapid succession by a series of events reaching down to the present day. Now we recall the underground railroad, leading to Canada; then the arrival of Frederick Douglas, ordered here on account of his color; next in order comes the Fenian raids; with other historical events too numerous to mention following in their order.

The north country is the home of Eben Holden, Preston King and Silas Wright. This section has always tried to preserve historic records and historic sites. Local history is included in the curriculum of the Watertown schools which makes the children more familiar with the things that have happened in their immediate vicinity. Nevertheless, the north country is in its infancy with respect to history as compared with Mohawk and Hudson river valleys. The people of this section, however, appreciate history.

Mr. Isaac L. Hunt, president of the Jefferson County Historical Society, next presented the greetings of that society. After a feeling tribute to Mrs. Edwin Paddock for her gift of the mansion which is now the home of the society, he spoke in part as follows:

Greetings of Isaac L. Hunt

Northern New York is a pleasant country of hills and dales, fertile valleys and streams. You will be amazed at its grandeur. Even before the time of the Indian, it was settled by the Eskimos. The Algonquin, the Iroquois, the French and the English have all inhabited our territory, the remnants of their civilization remaining on our soil.

The early French explorers and Jesuits were among the early settlers. The latter endured severe hardship and privation in order

to christianize the Indians. The story of their work would make a fascinating chapter in the history of Christian development.

Israel Putnam gained his first experiences of war along our shores. During those trying days Jefferson county was dark and bloody ground, the Indians filling our forests. Fort Haldimand was then the fortress of the Tories. The territory was invaded by the scenes of war from Carlton Island to Oswego. The Battle of Oriskany is one of the outstanding conflicts encountered in this section, being one of the turning points of the war.

Things became silent after the Revolution until 1800 when pioneer settlers from New England came to northern New York. Some of our cemeteries bear Revolutionary markers, which show that we have inherited some patriotism.

Major General Jacob Brown, commander of the troops in the Battle of Sackets Harbor, settled in Brownville. After this period greater expansion and development took place. The French refugees came here in large numbers during Napoleon time. During the Patriot War some of our people were hanged. The war with Mexico did not affect northern New York, the people of this locality being opposed to the war. The great war of the Rebellion rocked this section like the waves of the sea. Then came the period of the Fenian raids and from then until the present this country has grown from a primeval forest to the stage of its present development.

The President of the Association, Dr. James Sullivan, testified to the appreciation for the cordial welcome and then delivered his presidential address on "Legend, Anecdote and History" printed in this number.

Thursday morning opened with a conference of local historians and historical societies under the guidance of Dr. A. C. Flick, State Historian; the problems discussed included placing of historic markers, methods of arousing and sustaining historical interest, collection of material, cooperation with public bodies, schools, churches and clubs. Among the speakers were Col. John W. Vrooman of Herkimer, Mrs. Nora Cruikshank of Watertown, F. Dudley Corse of Sandy Creek, Dr. F. S. Parkhurst of Kenmore, Mrs. C. P. Kirley of Lowville and Boyd McDowell and W. H. Arnold of Elmira. The business meetings of Association and Trustees followed and are reported in the Secretary's minutes. The only change in the trustees was the election of Mrs. Herman Stump to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Miss Mary H. Haldane.

At noon there was a luncheon with the service clubs of Watertown that taxed the Hotel Woodruff and Dr. A. C. Flick spoke on "Why the State and Local Historical Associations; their uses and needs." His final paragraph was: "Shall we in Watertown and New York State allow all the splendid history to drop back into oblivion or do our utmost to preserve the past? What is the use of our local and state historical society? This is the answer. We must revere our ancestors if we also are to have pride in preparing the way for those who are to follow."

The afternoon was given to a historical pilgrimage to Sackets Harbor, the site of the Battle of Sandy Creek, the route of the pioneers who brought the cable from Sandy Creek to Sackets Harbor and the home of Gen. Jacob Brown, leader in the War of 1812. In the evening, papers which will be printed later were read by Judge George W. Reeves on "The Story of the North Country" and by the Hon. Walter G. Kellogg on "George Parish and Madame Vespucci."

On Friday morning shortly after 8 o'clock the members of the Association and hosts left by automobile for Alexandria Bay where a boat trip among the Thousand Islands was thoroughly enjoyed; then on to the Ogdensburg Country Club, where Mayor Newell of Ogdensburg welcomed the visitors; here Monsignor P. S. Garand, the historian of Ogdensburg, told the story of the coming of Father Picquet and the establishment of his mission, and more briefly of the subsequent history of the city. After a pause at the monument to Father Picquet on the site of Fort LaPresentation, a stop was made at the Frederick Remington Memorial, which houses so many of the works of this artist, and Poultney Bigelow spoke of his recollections of Remington (see his article printed in this number). There followed a delightful ride to Canton where, guided by a traffic squad of university boys, a visit was paid to the tomb of Silas Wright and then to St. Lawrence University where Dr. C. H. Leete told the story of "The St. Lawrence Ten Towns" (to be printed later).

The final session was held Friday evening in the auditorium of the Black River Valley Club. Owing to other engagements, Mrs. Rhoda Fox Graves was unable to be present to read her paper on "President Monroe's Visit to Northern New York in the Interests of National Defense" but our members will be able to read it in a

future number of the QUARTERLY JOURNAL. The papers of the evening were therefore limited to that by Richard C. Ellsworth on "Northern New York's Early Co-operative Union" and Miss Alta M. Ralph's on "The Chassanis or Castorland Settlement," both of which will appear later. After brief remarks on the commemoration of the Sullivan Expedition in 1929 by Doctor Flick and the adoption of resolutions of appreciation, the Association adjourned with the feeling that all had enjoyed a notably profitable and pleasant annual meeting.

PETER NELSON

THE
NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING
WATERTOWN
SEPTEMBER 26–29, 1928

PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

4 P. M. Registration at Jefferson County Historical Society with inspection of library and historical collections.

8 P. M. Addresses of welcome: Harry F. Landon, for the Mayor of Watertown; Isaac L. Hunt, for Jefferson County Historical Society.
Response to welcome and address—Legend, Anecdote and History—James Sullivan, LL.D.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

9 A. M. Conference of local historians and historical societies of northern New York.

11 A. M. Business meeting of the Association.
Business meeting of the Trustees of the Association.

12:15 P. M. Luncheon at Hotel Woodruff with Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs.
Address—Why the State and Local Historical Associations; their Uses and Needs—Alexander C. Flick, Litt.D.

2 P. M. Automobile trip to Sackets Harbor over the route taken by the early settlers who brought the cable from Sandy Creek to Sackets Harbor; to site of Battle of Sandy Creek, crossing Champlain's route to the Onondaga Country in 1615; to mansion erected by General Jacob Brown, of 1812 fame, at Brownville.

8 P. M. At Black River Valley Club, Watertown.
Address—The Story of the North Country—Hon. George W. Reeves.
Address—George Parish and Madame Vespucci—Hon. Walter Guest Kellogg.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

8 A. M. Automobile trip to Alexandria Bay; boat trip among the Thousand Islands; automobile to Ogdensburg.

11:30 A. M. Buffet luncheon at the Ogdensburg Country Club.
Address—Father Picquet and his Iroquois Mission—Mgr. P. S. Garand.

1:00 P. M. Automobile to Monument to Father Picquet on site of Fort La Presentation, the first building in Ogdensburg.
Visit to Frederic Remington Memorial.
Address—Frederic Remington; with extracts from unpublished letters—Hon. Poultney Bigelow.

3:00 P. M. Visit to St. Lawrence University, Canton.
Address—The St. Lawrence Ten Towns—Charles H. Leete, Ph.D.

8:00 P. M. At Black River Valley Club, Watertown.
Address—Northern New York's Early Co-operative Union—Richard C. Ellsworth.
Address—President Monroe's Visit to Northern New York in the Interests of National Defense—Mrs. Rhoda Fox Graves (*not read*).
Address—The Chassanis or Castorland Settlement—Miss Alta M. Ralph.
Remarks on the Commemoration of the Sullivan Expedition in 1929—Alexander C. Flick, Litt.D.
Final business session of the Association.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

Trips individually arranged to other places of historical interest in Jefferson County.

BUSINESS SESSION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The business meeting of the New York State Historical Association was held at the Jefferson County Historical Society building, Watertown, at 11 A. M., September 27, 1928, President James Sullivan, LL.D., in the chair.

Upon motion, *Resolved* that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with.

The Secretary presented a list of the new members received since January 1st, and upon motion, *Resolved* that the election of these new members be confirmed. (See list.)

The Treasurer's report was read, and upon motion, *Resolved* that the same be accepted and placed on file. (See report.)

Miss Wicker's report as Director of the Headquarters Building at Ticonderoga was presented, and upon motion, *Resolved* that this report be accepted. (See report.)

Reports for the Bennington Battlefield Park and the Lake George Battleground Park were read by the Secretary. (See reports.)

Peter Nelson made an oral report for the Committee on co-operation with New York Library Association.

Upon motion, *Resolved* that the Secretary cast one ballot for the re-election of the following Trustees whose terms of office have expired:

William P. Baker, Litt.D.	Syracuse
Hon. Alphonso T. Clearwater, LL.D.	Kingston
Hon. John H. Finley, LL.D.	New York
Dixon Ryan Fox, Ph.D.	New York
Arthur C. Parker, M.Sc.	Rochester
Hon. George W. Reeves	Watertown
Frederick B. Richards	Glens Falls
James G. Riggs, Pd.D.	Oswego

The Secretary reported that the ballot had been cast and the Trustees mentioned were declared elected for a term of three years.

Upon motion, *Resolved* that the Secretary cast one ballot for the election of Mrs. Herman Stump, Bel Air, Md., as Trustee to succeed Miss Mary H. Haldane, deceased.

The Secretary reported that the ballot had been cast and Mrs. Stump was declared elected for a term of three years.

Invitations to hold the 1929 Annual Meeting were received from Elmira, Binghamton and Saratoga Springs, and upon motion, *Resolved* that the selection of the next place of meeting be referred to the Executive Committee with power.

A letter was read from Mr. C. C. Allen of Schuylerville, and upon motion, *Resolved* that, in view of the remarkable service rendered by him in the cause of history in his directing the Schuylerville

celebration, Mr. Allen's past dues, including those for 1928, as a member of the Association be cancelled.

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned.

Resolutions adopted at the final session of the Annual Meeting of the New York State Historical Association, September 28, 1928:

Resolved, that the New York State Historical Association endorse the plans and purposes of the Sullivan Sesquicentennial Celebration as formulated by the State Education Department and the State Historian, and pledge its fullest co-operation in carrying out their plans.

The New York State Historical Association in convention assembled at Watertown on September 28, 1928, having enjoyed the hospitality of the Jefferson County Historical Society in their splendid Memorial Building, hereby *resolve* as follows:

First, To the Jefferson County Historical Society we express our warm appreciation of the planning for our comfort and convenience while guests in the beautiful city of Watertown. The provision for meetings, for the welcome to the city, for the joint meeting at luncheon with the Rotary and the Kiwanis Clubs, for the trip to the Thousand Islands, for the luncheon at the Ogdensburg Country Club and the visits to the monuments and to the Remington Memorial, for the arrangements for the visit to St. Lawrence University—all these tsetify to the cordial reception to the State Association.

Second, In particular we give our thanks to the Black River Valley Club, to the citizens of Watertown for their generous donation of cars for the trips to Sackets Harbor and to Alexandria Bay, Ogdensburg and Canton. Also to the *Watertown Times* and to the *Watertown Standard* for the careful reporting. Not the least of our comfort has been provided through the police of Watertown and Ogdensburg and the students at Canton in the traffic guidance for strangers in their midst.

Third, Our particular appreciation is due those who have prepared the interesting papers which have both entertained and instructed us in the local and general history of the region.

FREDERICK B. RICHARDS
Recording Secretary

MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES

The meeting of the Trustees of the New York State Historical Association, was held at the Jefferson County Historical Society building, at the conclusion of the business meeting of the Association, September 27, 1928.

Present—Trustees Vrooman, Riggs, Sullivan, Flick, Reeves, Finnigan, Stump, Nelson, Baker, Severance, Martin and Richards.

The meeting was called to order with Dr. Sullivan in the chair.

Upon motion, *Resolved* that the Secretary cast one ballot for the re-election of the following officers:

President—James Sullivan, LL.D., Albany
First Vice Pres.—Dixon Ryan Fox, Ph.D., New York
Second Vice Pres.—Hon. George D. Pratt, A.M., New York
Corresponding Secretary—Alexander C. Flick, Litt.D., Albany
Recording Secretary and Treasurer—Frederick B. Richards, A.M., Glens Falls
Director of Headquarters Building—Miss Julia F. Wicker, A.B., Ticonderoga.

The Secretary reported that the ballot had been cast and the officers named were declared elected.

Resolved that the matter of the expenditure of $100.00 a month for help in the Secretary's office be referred to the Executive Committee with power.

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned.

FREDERICK B. RICHARDS
Recording Secretary

Financial Statement

New York State Historical Association

October 1, 1927, to September 15, 1928

General Fund

Receipts

Balance on hand, October 1, 1927, including advances to Headquarters Maintenance Fund ($729.57) and Life and Endowment Membership Fund ($505.19)	$2,123.06	
Dues from members	2,648.00	
Interest from Life Membership endowment	411.47	
Advance payment for bound volumes of Proceedings	214.00	
Sale of Proceedings and Quarterly Journal	227.39	
		$ 5,623.92

Disbursements

General Expense			
Salary, F. E. Bent.	$1,150.00		
Printing	322.55		
Postage	142.72		
Sundry	30.74		
		$1,646.01	
Proceedings and Quarterly Journal (six issues) (This includes payment for April 1927 and July 1927 Quarterly Journal ($979.81) which should have been included in previous year.)		3,771.53	$ 5,417.54
Balance, September 15, 1928			$ 206.38

LIFE AND ENDOWMENT MEMBERSHIP FUND

Receipts

Avails			
1st Liberty Loan	$ 100.00		
2nd Liberty Loan	150.00		
Huntington Land & Imp.	200.00		
Premium, So. Calif. Edison bond	50.00		
		$ 500.00	
Dues, new members		300.00	
			$ 800.00
Disbursements			
Repayment of advance from General Fund for purchase of bond			$ 505.19
Balance, September 15, 1928			$ 294.81

HEADQUARTERS EQUIPMENT FUND

Receipts

Balance on hand, October 1, 1927		$ 493.62	
Sales—Booklets and post cards—at Headquarters		208.75	
			$ 702.37
Disbursements			
Check to George D. Pratt (account of money advanced)			$ 115.00
Balance, September 15, 1928			$ 587.37

HEADQUARTERS MAINTENANCE FUND

Receipts

Interest, H. A. Moses Foundation			$ 5,670.97
Disbursements			
Salary, J. F. Wicker		$1,725.00	
Salary, F. Hill		1,150.00	
Insurance		600.00	
Coal		346.08	
Sundry Expenses		334.93	
Labor on Grounds		81.10	
		$4,237.11	
Repayment of advance from General Fund		729.57	
			$ 4,966.68
Balance, September 15, 1928			$ 704.29

LIBRARY FUND

Receipts

Check from George D. Pratt	$ 500.00	
Books sold to Pierce & Scopes	26.00	
		$ 526.00
Disbursements		
Pierce & Scopes, books purchased		$ 235.00
Balance on hand, September 15, 1928		$ 291.00

STATE PARKS

The Association continues through the courtesy of the Conservation Department, as custodian for the State of New York of the Bennington Battlefield Park, Crown Point Reservation and Lake George Battleground Park but the funds are now disbursed by State checks to the individual claimants. The treasurer of the Association, therefore, does not handle any of the State funds, except to send out the checks, and will no longer report on these receipts and expenditures.

INVESTMENTS

Life and Endowment Membership Fund

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland 5–½%	$1,000.00	
Great Western Power Co 5%	1,000.00	
Detroit Edison Co 5%	1,000.00	
Illinois Power & Light Corp. 5–½%	1,000.00	
Illinois Power & Light Corp 6%	1,000.00	
Mercantile Properties 5–½%	1,000.00	
Southern California Edison 5%	1,000.00	
		$ 7,000.00

HEADQUARTERS MAINTENANCE FUND

	Par	*Cost*
Argentine Government 6%	$10,000.00	$ 9,875.00
Chicago, R. I. & Pac. 4%	10,000.00	9,100.00
Dallas Gas Co. 6%	10,000.00	10,300.00
Ferry Station P. O. 6%	15,000.00	15,000.00
Saxon Public Works 7%	10,000.00	9,500.00
Goodyear Tire & Rubber 5%	11,000.00	10,436.25
Eastman Kodak Co 8%	4,000.00	4,400.00
Boston Edison Elect 12%	2,000.00	4,520.00
Oxford Paper Co., pref. 7%	10,000.00	10,350.00
New York Central, common stock	6,800.00	11,713.00
American Superpower Corp., pref. 6%	5,500.00	5,637.50
	$94,300.00	$100,831.75
Cash held by Moses Foundation for reinvestment		$ 568.68

NEW MEMBERS

February 1 to September 26, 1928

Life Members

Dunham, Sturges Sigler	42 Broadway, New York
Leon, Maurice	Goody's Hill, Irvington-on-Hudson
Porter, Hon. Fred L.	Crown Point
White, Miss Edith Hamilton	Peterboro
Williams, Timothy S.	Huntington

Annual

Adsit, Newman W.	317 East Sidney St., Mount Vernon
Allen, George Hoyt	Clinton
Allen, Henry B.	1230 South Ave., Rochester
Allison, George F.	299 Madison Ave., New York
Baer, Miss Dena	Hotel Theresa, 125th St. & 7th Ave., New York
Barnard, Henry	102 Rutgers St., Rochester
Beach, Francis W.	Schuylerville
Beach, Fred G.	46 Nunda Blvd., Rochester
Beazell, William Preston, Litt.D.	255 Greenway So., Forest Hills
Betts, Miss Clara Webber	15 William St., Catskill
Benjamin, William E.	598 Madison Ave., New York
Bennett, Clarence E., A.M.	1111 Regents St., Schenectady
Benson, Arthur D.	44 West 44th St., New York
Bogert, Henry Lawrence	99 Nassau St., New York
Brien, Fred S.	Cherry Valley
Britton, Mrs. J. E.	Lewiston
Brown, Miss Mary Gilbert	365 W. Fourth St., Elmira
Burton, Frank	37 Kingsborough Ave., Gloversville
Byrne, James, LL.D.	730 Fifth Ave., New York
Carroll, John M.	112 South William St., Johnstown
Casler, Mrs. W. A.	Cape Vincent
Clancy, Miss Mary	Schuylerville
Clark, George H.	31 Exchange St., Rochester
Coffin, Samuel Barlow	12 South Fourth St., Hudson
Collamer, Robert F.	Hotel Queensbury, Glens Falls
Collver, Clinton	44 Pine St., New York
Cornwall, Mrs. Harold D.	Beaver Falls
Craig, Miss Marion Mead	Canaan
Crispell, Raymond S., M. D.	61 Wall St., Kingston
Crofts, George D.	293 Highland Ave., Buffalo
Crumb, Mrs. Leverett F.	129 High St., Peekskill
Davies, J. Clarence	149th St. & 3rd Ave., New York
Davis, Boothe C., LL.D.	Alfred
Davis, Hon. Rowland L.	Court House, Cortland

Devereux, Mrs. V. Evans	675 Delaware Ave., Buffalo
Doubleday, Russell	Garden City
Eddy, George Simpson	1 West 72nd St., New York
Ellison, Frank T.	380 Main St. East, Rochester
Fayant, Frank H.	"Westover," Scarborough-on-Hudson
Fetherston, John T., D.Sc.	Cuylerville
Flint, Orin Q.	Athens
Gaebelein, Rev. Arno C., D.D.	229 East Sidney Ave., Mount Vernon
Gates, Miss Harriet L.	356 W. Water St., Elmira
Geer, Walter	200 West 58th St., New York
Gelder, Jay	Peru
Gibson, Miss Edla Stannard	396 Porter Ave., Buffalo
Gillespie, Mrs. Angus	Averill Park
Greene, George E.	Hoosick Falls
Gurley, Mrs. William F.	Hillcrest, Troy
Hardy, George F., Sc.D.	305 Broadway, New York
Herrick, Glenn W.	219 Kelvin Place, Ithaca
Higbie, Robert W., LL.D.	9050 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica
Hinke, William J., Ph.D., D.D.	Auburn
Hopkins, Arthur Sherwood	251 South Main Ave., Albany
Houghton, Mrs. E. Russell	The Knox School, Cooperstown
Howell, Elmer Brown	75 Thompson Ave., Babylon
Hull, Harold Simmons	320 Broadway, New York
Huppuch, Hon. Winfield A.	236 Main St., Hudson Falls
Ingersoll, Miss Nancy E.	Fonda
Johnston, J. Herbert	18 Washington Sq., New York
Jones, Edward F.	10 Church St., Greenwich
Junkersfeld, P.	3 Berkeley Road, Scarsdale
Kelly, William H., Jr.	616 Delaware Ave., Albany
Ketchum, George F.	2 Oakland Ave., Warwick
Kieb, Raymond F. C., M.D.	Box 236, Beacon
Kimmell, W. G.	University Club, Albany
Kincaid, W. W.	Youngstown
Kirk, Miss Belle McCrea	Sterling
Langdon, William Chauncey	195 Broadway, New York
Lansing, Mrs. Arthur K.	Cambridge
Lattin, Frank H., M.D.	Albion
Leonard, Walter A., M.D.	Cambridge

Lester, Gen. James W. — Saratoga Springs
Lewis County Historical Society — Lowville
Locke, Franklin T. — Ticonderoga
Lord, Chester S., LL.D. — 57 So. Portland Ave., Brooklyn
Lutes, Miss Lillian C. — 922 Spruce St., Philadelphia, Pa.

Mace, Rev. John W. — Brightwaters
MacMillan, Newman A. — 185 Ridge St., Glens Falls
McAlpin, Charles W. — 520 Park Ave., New York
McLean, C. M. — 3 Chestnut St., Binghamton
Mandeville, Hubert C., L.H.D. — Robinson Bldg., Elmira
Masten, Arthur H., LL.D. — 49 Wall St., New York
Mead, Nelson P., Ph.D. — 81 Hillside Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson
Melius, L. L. — 285 Madison Ave., New York

Newell, Rev. Wilbur C. — 20 Essex St., Amsterdam
Newell, Hon. W. Allen — 415 Caroline St., Ogdensburg
Nolan, Michael D. — Times Bldg., Troy

Partridge, Edward L. — 19 West 54th St., New York
Pattison, A. Eugene — 20 Exchange Place, New York
Peckham, Dr. A. L. — 17 Adriance Ave., Poughkeepsie
Penn, Arthur A. — Box 436, Block Island, R. I.
Powers, Miss Mabel — Chautauqua
Preston, Mrs. James L. — 1060 Park Ave., New York
Putnam, Frederick Wallace, M.D. — 210 Vestal Ave., Binghamton

Robbins, V. Rev. Howard Chandler, D.D. — Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York

Severance, Mrs. Wales F. — Mexico
Sherman, Miss Mary B. — 428 Elizabeth St., Ogdensburg
Shuart, Mrs. Charles H. — 114 First St., Newburgh
Smith, Hon. Edward N. — Supreme Court Chambers, Watertown
Smith, George A., M.D. — Central Islip
Snider, William T. — 52 Water St., Newburgh
Stage, Lewis J. — Warwick
Stires, Rt. Rev. Ernest Milmore, LL.D. — Garden City
Stokes, J. G. Phelps, M.D. — 100 William St., New York
Stoller, James H., Sc.D. — Galway
Sweeney, Thomas H. — 287 Elm St., Astoria
Sweet, Louis Matthews, S.T.D., — 235 East 49th St., New York

Thorne, Albert George, LL.B. — 27 Cedar St., New York
Timmerman, Charles F., M.D. — 23 Division St., Amsterdam
Tompkins, William I. — 523 Wellman St., S.E., Massillon, Ohio
Turner, S. G. H. — 150 Lake St., Elmira

Vanderlip, Frank Arthur	912 Fifth Ave., New York
Vincent, Miss Florentine M.	Route 1, Cape Vincent
Webster, Richardson	129 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn
White, J. DuPratt	Nyack
Whitney, Willis R., Sc.D.	R. D. 1, Schenectady
Williams, Dwight	Cazenovia
Wilson, Karl Leigh	Birchwood Place, Tenafly, N. J.
Winne, John Edgar, D.C.	948 State St., Schenectady
Wheeler, Henry	191 Pawling Ave., Troy
Wood, Millius O.	Herkimer
Wood, Mrs. Millius O.	Herkimer

Present Membership—Sept. 26, 1928

Endowment	7
Honorary	4
Corresponding	1
Associate	7
Life	190
Annual	1080
Total	1,289

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

July 1, 1927—September 25, 1928

This report begins when the present Director took charge of the Headquarters Building at Ticonderoga and extends to the time of the annual meeting at Watertown, where it was given in summary.

The building has been open to visitors daily during the summer from nine to five, and from two to five on Sundays. From the middle of October until June the hours for visitors were from ten to twelve and two to four, the building closed on Sundays. The total attendance for this period is 14,430; and since the building was opened, about 23,000. All roads but one leading to Ticonderoga have been under construction but they will probably all be finished before another season and we should then have many more visitors. It might be of interest to add that people come from all parts of this country and from foreign countries also, and one day in August they registered from fourteen different states and the province of Quebec.

In 1927 a group of Girl Scouts acted as guides about the building during the busiest season but this summer they were not avail-

able and consequently the Director has given practically all her time to the visitors.

The building was completed and well equipped when the present Director took charge so only minor improvements have been made. The doors and windows have been screened and this helps very much in the care of the house. The lettering on the tablet in memory of Hon. James A. Roberts was hard to read and has now been outlined in black. The hanging sign in the yard has given some trouble and has already been repainted once and needs further repair now. The roadside sign at the south end of town should also be repaired and the one intended for the Crown Point road should have some treatment to make it withstand weathering before being placed. We are trying to get expert advice on the subject. Last year it was necessary to heat the building from about the middle of October until early May and this consumed about thirty-three tons of coal.

On the grounds considerable work has been done. The grading, sodding and seeding has been finished and we now have a very fine lawn. The lower part of the lot gave some trouble on account of washouts but has been filled in and the turf is now getting well started. Trees and shrubs have been planted and add very much to the appearance of the place. There is a hedge of Lombardy poplars at the rear of the lot, which will form a background for the building. Maple, elm and oak trees have been planted here and there, and evergreens are grouped at either side of the front entrance and also at the ends of the house. There are also groups of shrubs, with lilacs and roses predominating. A driveway to the rear entrance has been built and topped with fine crushed stone. All this was done by Mr. Moses; but since July 1st the care of the grounds has been turned over to the Association. This adds considerably to the work of the janitor, but the present arrangement is to have him do what he can outside, mowing the lawn, etc., and leaving the care of the shrubs to the gardener in charge of the hospital grounds who is paid for such extra work. This has worked out well so far.

Several meetings have been held in the building during the year. Last October one session of the annual meeting of the Association was held in the lecture room, at which about two hundred members were present. The Essex County Medical Association meets

here annually in October; travel talks have been given by Mr. Moses and by Dr. Cummings, illustrated by moving pictures. A lecture illustrating the laboratory preparations of the Parke Davis Company was also given here at the request of the hospital management. The local historians of Essex, Warren and Washington counties were invited to meet here for an informal conference in the early summer; Dr. Flick was present and the meeting proved to be very helpful and we now hope to make it an annual affair.

The library has had some very useful additions during the past year and now consists of 2986 books and pamphlets and about 250 partial sets of serials. Mr. Noble has added from time to time to his original gift. Mr. Pratt has given a sum of money with which to purchase books. About fifty volumes have already been purchased including a set of Parkman and several city and county histories and other books dealing with New York State in different periods. These were selected by a committee after considering what we needed most. The Association has a book plate which is used in every bound volume, with a special plate for gifts. If any individual gives one hundred volumes, a special plate with the donor's name is provided. Mr. Noble's books are so marked and Mr. Pratt is now entitled to one. Dr. Albert VanderVeer has given the 9th edition Encyclopaedia Britannica with supplement to 1903; Dr. Ira Otis Tracy has given 20 volumes of Lee-Thorpe History of North America, 6 volumes of Bancroft, 8 volumes of McMaster and miscellaneous books of travel and the World War; the Lewis Historical Publishing Company has given 32 volumes of city and county histories and the History of New York State edited by Dr. Sullivan. Other gifts of one or two volumes have been made, and all offers of books are submitted to a committee consisting of Mr. Pratt, Dr. Flick and Mr. Pell.

The chief gifts to the museum during the year have come from Mr. Pell. The sedan chair has been a center of interest. He has also given a map of Lake Champlain and Lake George made from a survey ordered by Sir Jeffery Amherst in 1756, several manuscripts and broadsides, some of which deal with the Crown Point expedition of 1756, and some Indian stone axes. There have been other gifts of relics from the Lake George Battlefield, some Civil War relics and some from the War of 1812; also some house-

hold utensils and implements from local people. I think it will be possible to add to these so that next year we may have quite an exhibit along this line.

In regard to the survey of local history collections in New York State undertaken by the New York Library Association and the New York State Historical Association, the present status may be summarized as follows: In the summer of 1926 about 330 questionnaires were sent to historical and patriotic societies and about 600 to libraries throughout the State. Of these 102 were returned to the Headquarters Building and are on file here now. They were filled out more or less completely and the data will be of some help in continuing the work, but it is very evident that considerable follow-up work will have to be done. On September 6th, 1928, a joint meeting of the committees of the two associations was called by Dr. Shearer in connection with the meeting of the New York Library Association at Richfield Springs. Mr. Nelson represented our committee and the Director was also present. The results of the questionnaires were discussed and various plans of follow-up work suggested, but no formal action was taken. It was suggested that special stress be laid upon collections of newspaper files.

A personal survey of manuscript collections was begun by Mr. Rowse and has been continued. The present status of this is as follows: Albany county has been covered quite completely, including county, city, town and village records, also some books, and loose papers in private collections and a few church records. Reports are filed at the Headquarters Building as are all other records found. In Orange county the cities of Newburgh, Middletown and Port Jervis, and the towns of Blooming Grove, Warwick, Chester, Goshen and Highland were visited and records examined. A report is published in the QUARTERLY JOURNAL for January 1927. The public records of the county and city of Oswego,the town of Richland, the city of Fulton, city of Watertown and Jefferson county, city of Rochester and Monroe county have been examined and results filed. In Essex county the towns of Crown Point, Elizabethtown, Essex, Keene, Moriah, Ticonderoga and Westport have been visited and the county records at Elizabethtown looked over. In Warren county the public records of the village and city of Glens Falls and the town of Queensbury

were listed and the collections in the Crandall library looked over, and in Washington county, Kingsbury, Fort Edward, Fort Ann and Whitehall records were looked over and listed. The most interesting as showing early customs were the records of ear marks and strayed animals dating back to 1814 at Fort Edward and a book of log marks, 1831–1926, at Queensbury. The local historians were called upon whenever possible and found to be most helpful in advising what to look for.

Meetings attended during the year were the Trustees' meeting at Albany in January 1927, a Library Institute in May at Elizabethtown, the meeting of the New York Library Association at Richfield Springs and the annual meeting of the Association at Watertown in September.

A great deal of time has been spent with visitors at the building and for about four months of the year little else can be done. The clerical work in connection with our correspondence, mailing lists, indexes, etc., takes considerable time, also the routine work in the care and arrangement of the library. When these tasks are brought up to date, it is hoped that more time can be given to the bibliographical work outlined by the Headquarters Committee.

Julia F. Wicker
Director

Report of the Bennington Battlefield Committee

During the past year the Rest House has been completed, water has been piped to the top of the hill, and the roads repaired and kept in good order. The stream of visitors is constantly increasing; several Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a large meeting there on August 16th, the anniversary date of the battle. Several other organizations have held meetings and picnics during the year at the Park.

A new concrete State road is being built from North Hoosick, N. Y., to the Vermont state line. This road goes through the Park, and as soon as completed will give easier and better access and will also bring a stream of tourists upon that road, which will greatly increase the number of visitors.

The Park is in very good condition and has been inspected and passed by the officials of the Conservation Department.

Frank L. Stevens
Chairman

Report for the Lake George Battleground Park

I wish to submit the following report of the progress of the work at the Lake George Battleground Park for the season of 1928.

During July and August an average of six men were employed and a team when needed. The walks through the Park were rebuilt and about forty ton of crushed stone used. Cinders were used in the repair of the roads. New benches and waste cans were added to those already in use. A lot of brush cutting was done, making about ten acres more available space for picnic parties and also bringing to light more of the historical ruins, such as rifle pits and old stone walls.

It is hoped that next year the electric light system can be extended, also the water system for the use of picnic parties, and a new iron fence erected about the Indian Statue. Some of the buildings should be painted next year, also the fence surrounding the Park.

It is estimated that not less than 150,000 people visited the Park this season, which included many large outings, clam bakes, family picnic parties, etc. Almost everyone seemed to be interested in the ruins and also in the monuments that are erected there.

Stewart MacFarland
Caretaker

NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Officers 1928–1929

President
James Sullivan, LL.D., Albany

First Vice President
Dixon Ryan Fox, Ph.D., New York

Second Vice President
Hon. George D. Pratt, New York

Corresponding Secretary
Alexander C. Flick, Litt.D., Albany

Recording Secretary and Treasurer
Frederick B. Richards, A.M., Glens Falls

Director
Miss Julia F. Wicker, A.B., Ticonderoga

COMMITTEES

PROGRAM—Boyd McDowell, Edward R. Foreman, Dixon Ryan Fox, and the President.

LEGISLATION—Stewart MacFarland, Gilbert D. B. Hasbrouck, S. H. P. Pell, James S. Truman, Fred L. Porter, and the President.

MARKING HISTORIC SPOTS—Peter Nelson, Charles A. Ditmas, Nelson Greene, Cyrus Garnsey, Mrs. Abram D. Smith, Miss Harriet E. Stevens, Mrs. Herman Stump, Charles J. Dunlap, the President and State Historian, ex-officio.

PUBLICATIONS—A. C. Flick, Dixon Ryan Fox, F. B. Richards, Peter Nelson, and the President.

INVESTMENT—Darwin D. Martin, Harry L. Broughton, Robert C. Carter.

RESOLUTIONS—Col. John W. Vrooman, A. J. Wall.

NECROLOGY—Miss Flora E. Bent, A. C. Flick, F. B. Richards.

LAKE GEORGE BATTLEGROUND PARK—George Foster Peabody, Charles F. West, Stewart MacFarland, State Historian and State Architect, ex-officio.

CROWN POINT RESERVATION—Fred L. Porter, Rev. C. C. St. Clare, Berne A. Pyrke, M. F. Barnes, John P. Myers, State Historian and State Architect, ex-officio.

BENNINGTON BATTLEFIELD PARK—Frank L. Stevens, Delmer Runkle, Arthur Cowee, Ira J. Wood, Miss Helen Waddell, Miss Mary B. Thompson, State Historian and State Architect, ex-officio.

MEMBERSHIP—James G. Riggs, Alexander C. Flick, Peter Nelson, Oscar J. Barck, Richard Webber, Harry V. Bush, F. A. Skilton, George W. Reeves, Frank H. Severance, Mrs. Charles H. Winship and the President.

COMMITTEE FOR 150TH ANNIVERSARY—Officers of the Association, also Charles A. Ditmas, Gilbert D. B. Hasbrouck, S. H. P. Pell, A. J. Wall, Charles H. Wiltsie, Peter Nelson, Executive Secretary.

COMMITTEE TO COOPERATE WITH THE NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION—Peter Nelson, A. H. Shearer, A. J. Wall, E. P. Tanner.

MIDWINTER MEETING OF TRUSTEES

January 26, 1929

The semi-annual meeting of the Trustees of the New York State Historical Association was held in the State Historian's office, State Education Building, Albany, at 9:30 A. M., Saturday, January 26, 1929.

Present: Trustees Sullivan, Flick, Wall, Martin, Nelson and Richards; also Miss Wicker, director of headquarters.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with.

The Secretary read a list of new members who had been received since the annual meeting, and upon motion, *Resolved*, That the election of these new members be confirmed by the Trustees. (See list following.)

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted. (See Report.)

After explanatory statements by Doctor Sullivan and Miss Mildred Van Wie Patterson, who was given a hearing on this subject, it was *Resolved*, That the New York State Historical Association endorse the movement looking toward the survey and restoration of Fort Crailo.

Mr. Boyd McDowell, president of the Chemung County Historical Society, was heard with reference to a proposed bill for the preservation of neglected graveyards of the State. Upon motion, *Resolved*, That action be deferred until the bill be drafted, and that the measure be referred to the Executive Committee with power.

Mr. McDowell repeated the invitation of the City of Elmira, represented by its mayor and various civic bodies, and the Chemung County Historical Society to hold the next annual meeting in Elmira. Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the invitation to meet in Elmira be accepted and that the dates of the meeting be September 25th to 28th, 1929.

The treasurer submitted suggestions from members of the Finance Committee for the investment of $2000 now on hand. On motion of Mr. Wall, seconded by Dr. Flick, it was *Resolved*,

That $2000 be invested in guaranteed first mortgages bearing 5½ per cent interest.

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned.

FREDERICK B. RICHARDS
Secretary

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
NEW YORK STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
January 1, 1928, to January 1, 1929
GENERAL FUND

Receipts

Balance on hand, January 1, 1928	$ 969.61	
Dues	2,843.00	
Interest	416.46	
Advance Payment for 1928 PROCEEDINGS	217.00	
Sale of PROCEEDINGS and QUARTERLY JOURNAL	232.36	
		$4,678.43

Disbursements

PROCEEDINGS and QUARTERLY JOURNAL		$2,800.60	
General Expense			
Printing, stationery, etc.	$ 325.27		
F. E. Bent, office assistant	1,190.00		
Postage	148.36		
Sundries	55.63		
		1,719.26	
			$4,519.86
Balance, Jan. 1, 1929			$ 158.57

NEW MEMBERS
September 26, 1928, to January 26, 1929

Endowment–2

Kingsford, Thomas P.	Oswego
Watson, Miss Lucy Carlile	270 Genesee St., Utica

Life–2

Pell, Hon. Howland	31 Nassau St., New York
Smith, Hon. George Holmes	Monticello

Annual–124

Adams, Elmer L.	134 Mohawk St., Cohoes
Adel, Hon. Frank F.	115–36 Mayfair Road, Kew Gardens

Ainsworth, Annie Porter, Memorial Library	Sandy Creek
Alden, Miss Edith	1 DeWindt St., Beacon
Aldrich, Mrs. Richard	Barrytown-on-Hudson
Allen, Henry M.	35 Easterly Ave., Auburn
Atherton, Henry F.	20 Grant Ave., Glens Falls
Avery, Miss Myra H.	Nelson House, Poughkeepsie
Bergamini, William A.	Athens
Bartlett, Lewis Hall	1713 Beverley Road, Brooklyn
Baylies, Edmund Lincoln	10 East 62nd St., New York
Bell, Franklin N.	162 State St., Flushing
Bell, Miss S. Louise	45 Church St., Amsterdam
Bird, Mrs. Ina Hurlbut	Scott Road, Homer
Blackwell, James Madison	52 Wall Street, New York
Brady, Louis S.	40 Walworth Ave., Scarsdale
Braydon, Royal J.	18 Grant Ave., Glens Falls
Brett, Philip Milledoler	901 Lexington Ave., New York
Burns, Martin	321 Caroline St., Ogdensburg
Burrell, Loomis	Little Falls
Burrell, Mrs. Loomis	Little Falls
Caldwell, James H.	c/o Ludlow Valve Mfg. Co., Troy
Carter, Hon. Milton	Lowville
Caten, Miss Emma L.	318 Caroline St., Ogdensburg
Chemung Co. Historical Society	Elmira
Child, Samuel	117 Keyes Ave., Watertown
Clark, Frank H.	P. O. Box 48, Lisle
Clawson, Cortez R., A. M.	Alfred
Cless, George H., Jr.	20 Lincoln Ave., Glens Falls
Cleveland, J. Wray	995 Fifth Ave., New York
Comfort, Guy	Perry
Conde, Edwin G., A.M.	1020 University Pl., Schenectady
Cooke, Miss Jane Grosvenor	86 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck
Cohn, Miss Dora	Cobleskill
Depew, Ganson	1524 Marine Trust Bldg., Buffalo
Delano, Lyman	39 East 36th St., New York
Devereux, Walter Evans	468 Delaware Ave., Buffalo
Douglas, Hon. Wm. Harris	73 Pearl St., New York
Dunn, Cleveland A.	Scarsdale
Dunsmore, John Ward	96 Fifth Ave., New York

Eldridge, Charles	Pine Lane, Rye
Elliman, Lawrence B.	660 Madison Ave., New York
Ellison, Huyler B.	M. I. T. Dorms, Cambridge, Mass.
Ellison, J. Huyler	41 Wallace St., Freeport
Fairchild, Mrs. Charles S.	Cazenovia
Finehout, Mrs. Laura Yates	94 Union St., Amsterdam
Forsyth, Ralph Kay	41 Pearl St., Kingston
Gaines, Clement Carrington, LL.D.	259 Wolcott Ave., Beacon
Gale, Thomas K.	Box 433, Syracuse
Gilbert, Mrs. Frank B.	R.F.D. No. 1, Castleton-on-Hudson
Giles, Henry Snow	282 River St., Troy
Hennessy, W. E.	102 Guy Park Ave., Amsterdam
Higbie, Hamilton A.	9050 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica
Hoag, Roy B.	1103 Waverly Place, Schenectady
Hopkins, Charles Comstock	208 Westminster Road, Rochester
Howard, John C.	515 Caroline St., Ogdensburg
Howell, Elmer W.	27 George St., Babylon
Howland Circulating Library	Beacon
Jacobsen, Miss Edna L.	5 Lodge St., Albany
Johnston, Harry F.	59 Monroe Drive, Williamsville
Kellogg, Edward L., M.D.	48 W. 51st St., New York
Kleinfeld, Hon. Philip M.	285 Madison Ave., New York
Landon, Robert J.	736 Union St., Schenectady
Leffingwell, William M.	Watkins Glen
Maar, Mrs. Maria Peterson	538 Morris St., Albany
Mancuso, Hon. Francis X., LL.D.	164 East 111th St., New York
Marlow, Arthur J.	12 Goodwin Ave., Glens Falls
Martin, Roscoe B.	Forestville
McCreery, B. F.	151 Ridge St., Glens Falls
McGuinness, John J. A.	603 Madison St., Brooklyn
McLean, Marshall, A.M.	350 Madison Ave., New York
McNaught, Hon. Andrew J.	Stamford
Meyer, Blakeman Quintard	Rye
Mihalyi, Charles Z.	Glenfield
Millard, Mrs. Charles W.	25 Ardsley Road, Scarsdale
Monnette, Orra Eugene	350 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles, Cal.

Moss, Nelson A.	32 Grant Ave., Glens Falls
Myers, William M.	463 Main St., Metuchen, N. J.
Ohman, Karl A.	Van Schaick Mansion, Cohoes
Osborne, Mrs. Edwin	Warrensburg
Owen, Hon. Harry E.	Port Henry
Peck, Darius E.	1374 Lowell Road, Schenectady
Peirson, E. V.	Newark
Popkin, Miss Isabel Ruth	3415 Grand Central Term., New York
Popkin, Miss Winifred Norma	3415 Grand Central Term., New York
Pound, Arthur	Slingerlands
Reed, George E.	Carmel
Reese, William Willis	350 Madison Ave., New York
Richards, William L.	4½ Goodwin Ave., Glens Falls
Sabourin, Edward E.	255 Main St., Hudson Falls
Scopes, Frank J.	39 Maiden Lane, Albany
Shea, Hon. Joseph P.	Cold Spring
Sherman, Arthur W.	105 Ridge St., Glens Falls
Simmons, William	44 Whitehall St., New York
Smith, Hon. Lewis J.	8 Dikeman St., Hempstead
Smith, Jacob G.	602 Crossett St., Syracuse
Snow, Charles Henry, Sc.D.	New York University, Bronx, New York
Southard, J. Bennett, Jr.	Cold Spring-on-Hudson
Sowdon, Miss Alice W.	14 Highland Ave., Yonkers
Springarn, J. E.	Troutbeck, Amenia
Stafford, Bradley E.	Y. M. C. A., Mittineague, Mass.
Steenken, Francis L.	Malden-on-Hudson
Stuart, Mrs. Malcolm	131 East 67th St., New York
Sweetland, Hon. Monroe M.	Ithaca
Swift, Frederick	210 Madison Ave., New York
Sylvester, Thomas Henry	62 Sixth St., Stewart Manor
Talbot, Miss Emily A.	27 Lenox St., Brooklyn
Thompson, Wm. Leland	24 First St., Troy
Tiffany, Ezra	Hoosick Falls
Toedteberg, Miss Emma	628 Delamere Place, Brooklyn
Travis, John C.	156 East 38th St., New York
Truman, Hon. James S.	76 Front St., Owego
Tuckerman, Paul	117 E. 72nd St., New York
Vander Veer, Seeley	78 Trenor Drive, New Rochelle

Wadhams, W. G.	Pittsford
Walsh, James J., M.D.	110 West 74th St., New York
Webb, Hon. J. Griswold	Hyde Park-on-Hudson
Webber, Mrs. Harriet J. Webster	20 Gaylord St., Auburn
Welch, Alexander McMillan	15 East 71st St., New York
Wemple, Edwin Copley	3415 Grand Central Term., New York
West, Howard M.	166 High St., Hastings-on-Hudson
White, Mrs. Edward P.	Southampton
Wing, Jackson S.	66 Grant Ave., Glens Falls
Wingate, James	1046 University Place, Schenectady

LEGEND, ANECDOTE AND HISTORY[1]

In a review of two interesting books on Lafayette recently published the reviewer, not a historian, makes this comment (New Republic Sept. 19, 1928, p. 132):

Inevitably in reflecting on these two lives of Lafayette, one is led to ask whether their methods might not be combined. Would it not be possible to write biographies, which, though stirring as legend would still be faithful to history? Is not history itself the greatest of all legends? And, is the task of creating fiction any more honorable or difficult—in the true sense, is it more imaginative—than that of recreating the curious things that happened?

This is such a natural desire by the public. Legends are so often made interesting and truthful facts so often recorded by the historian without any attempt to clothe them in an attractive style. He puts so much time on getting his facts that he has little left to devote to the writing and rewriting which an author has to do in order to present an absorbing narrative.

Moreover the kinds of readers who revel in legends or traditions are frequently those who care little for truth but much more to establish some preconceived notions of how things ought to have been, even if all the known facts show that they were not so. Generally speaking, if a narrative is termed a legend it is conceded that there is little basis of fact for it, whereas if it is called a tradition it usually is said to have been handed down from father to son and from generation to generation. In that sense there is a distinction between the two terms though they are frequently treated as meaning one and the same thing. If legends or traditions are proven true by the discovery of heretofore unknown manuscripts or remains, such as monuments, they may take their place among established facts and thus become history. Discoveries in the lands of the Near East—Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, Palestine and in the lands once under Grecian and Roman control have often given the term historical to narratives formerly classified as legendary or traditional.

People like the spice of anecdote and legend with their salt pork of the truthful facts of history. Just as it is impossible to make a profit out of an educational movie unless it has a love story or

[1]Presidential address at the annual meeting of the New York State Historical Association at Watertown, September 26, 1928.

something salacious interwoven with it, so it is difficult to entice the public to read histories which are not lightened by legend and anecdote. It is for this reason that the Ferreros, the Van Loons, the Sandburgs and the Ludwigs and other recent biographers too numerous to mention have enjoyed the profits of the large sales of their books. The scientific, and "the truth and nothing but the truth so help me God" historians have been too obstinate and blind to recognize this fact. Instead of introducing these legends and anecdotes into their histories with a warning to the reader that they are legendary, they have passed them over in contemptuous silence and thus lost an opportunity to have their books read and a good lesson taught to the public on the subject of truthful and untruthful history. They have thus left the field to the less meticulous popularizers who have mixed their facts and their fictions into an attractive narrative without so much as a warning as to the difference between the two. In this respect our historian is much like the physician who first fought the homeopath and the osteopath and so on, instead of accepting some of their valid ideas, only to take them into the fold at last. But for many years such obstinacy led the public to patronize all kinds of charlatans and quacks without discrimination.

The historian must by the nature of his profession be primarily a searcher after truth—in popular language "first, last and all the time." If he can put his narrative in attractive form and accompany his story with clearly designated legends and traditions and anecdotes, authentic and unauthentic, so much the better for him, for the sales of his books and for the general propagation of historical knowledge; for under those circumstances the public will read his works. If on the other hand, he merely relates facts in a dry as dust fashion, the general reader will leave him strictly alone or wait until some more popular writer puts the material into what is ordinarily termed readable form.

This is rather unfortunate for the popularizer is more often than not one who through ignorance or intent is inclined to treat legends or anecdotes as truths. Shakespeare was a great popularizer of Greek and Roman history. It has been often said that almost all of the ancient history which the average Englishman knows was derived from Shakespeare's plays. Mark Antony's speech over the dead body of Caesar has been accepted by millions

as if it were really delivered. A recent paper by Maurice Deutsch seems to show that it was the mere exhibition of Caesar's body with its torn garments and bloody wounds which excited the anger and passions of the multitude. It is the acknowledged embroiderer of history, Plutarch, who inserts the story of the oration by Antony. The reliable biographer, Suetonius, merely states that Antony added a few words. This account would fit in better with Antony's precarious position at the time. It is known that Cicero nowhere mentions a stirring oration by Antony, though we must acknowledge that the "absence of mention" canon is a dangerous one for a historian to use.

Still the historian's method must always follow the Latin motto: "Sapiens non affirmat quod non probet"—"A wise man does not assert that which he cannot prove." He must seek and write the truth even though it makes the public mad as it has done our mayor of Chicago and others who wish history perverted in what they call the cause of patriotism. If we cannot make our people patriotic except by serving them with untruths so much the worse for that brand of patriotism.

One of the characteristics of people which puzzles the historian is that on the subject of historical evidence. Charles Gross, the greatest authority on British municipal history, used to say that of all classes of men the most gullible in the field of tales served as history were the lawyers. In the ordinary practice of their profession they were most careful on the admissibility of evidence, but in writing on topics of local history, which they frequently did, any fishwife's yarn or story vouched for solely by some lacrymose and senile nonagenarian would receive credence immediately and without question. Once having accepted such tales they would become the typical advocate for a client's cause and assume an attitude far from judicial. If this is the attitude taken by men trained in the laws of evidence what can you expect of the average man? If someone merely says that this is a Sheraton or Chippendale chair which William Johnson brought to America and gave to Philip Livingston, a museum accepts it on faith and puts a brass plaque on the article of furniture and no questions asked. A man says that his great-great-great-grandfather was given a chair which Harvey used while working on his theory of the circulation of the blood and we are too polite to ask for proofs.

Is it surprising under such circumstances that not only we but other countries are successfully imposed upon by fakirs. If we have our Cardiff Giant, the Louvre in France had its Etruscan tiara. In all ages and in all countries the credulous seem to love to be humbugged as our friend Barnum would say. The doubter is looked upon with scorn and if we were living in the Middle Ages he would be stoned or burned. In a visit to the chateau district in France sometime ago the speaker was much amused by one of these doubters who almost came to blows with the guide about the stories which the latter was telling about this and that building dating from the time of Charlemagne. The majority of the sightseers, practically all French, apparently swallowed everything, hook, line and sinker, as the saying goes. There was one Frenchman, however, who listened to every story with only too evident incredulity and when it was finished declared in a voice likely to excite anger: "Je ne crois pas. C'est impossible. C'est ridicule" et cetera. The guide so accustomed to having his narratives taken on faith and with exclamatory "ohs" was completely taken a-back and entered into a lively and gesticulating argument with the doubting Thomas but all to no avail. At length the sceptic was appeased by the surrender of the guide who said "On aime à croire." People like to believe such tales and that is the reason why they are told.

Their origin is so simple and easy. In a visit to a house which my grandfather had built in a middle western state the present owner had already discovered a secret panel above the lintel of the door in an upstairs bedroom. As my ancestor had been the president of a bank the story was easily invented that the bedroom was his and that the secret place was one in which he used to hide his money. Other tales too numerous to mention had grown up about old Sammy Sullivan, wealthy farmer, legislator, banker, most of them with as much truth to them as the secret panel. The bedroom had never been his as he had always slept downstairs and he was too careful a man ever to keep anything more than small sums elsewhere than in a bank.

It is interesting to note that legends have generally grown up about non-essentials, that is, it has made no difference to the world's history whether the legend was true or not. A long array of such may be mentioned. It made no difference to the course of

(*Courtesy of Hungerford-Holbrook Co.*)

GOV. ROSWELL P. FLOWER
Monument in Watertown

(*Courtesy of Ft. Plain Standard*)
GRANDMA FILKINS
1815-1928
(See under Notes and Comments)

history as to whether Lord Howe's body was permanently interred in a grave at Ticonderoga or was finally transferred to a tomb in St. Peter's church at Albany, but had he been of such importance as to have his grave or tomb become a center of pilgrimage and veneration, such fact would have had much to do with the economic, commercial, industrial and social history of the place where his bones were reputed to lie.

Callender, the one time owner of the house now designated as Fort Crailo in the city of Rensselaer, took in his twenty-five cent pieces from the credulous people who listened to his tales about its having been the residence of Johannes Megapolensis whose name he is said to have scratched on the cellar walls in order to support his story. Such a legend might be innocuous if it did not lead to the erection of a tablet to the effect that the building was erected in 1642 and thus lead an always easily gullible public to believe that a residence of such a style, size and comparative magnificence was built at such an early period in this colony, thus giving a totally erroneous impression of the social and economic history of the Dutch colonists.

An excellent illustration of a tradition, the historical truth of which, whether proven or not, makes no material difference in its effects on the course of history, is that of Plymouth Rock. Summed up in hours or even years historical scholars have spent them in veritable squabbles as to whether the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. As that particular glacially deposited small mass about fifteen feet long never marked a boundary which became the subject of dispute it has never affected the course of history. It has not made, nor does it make, any difference whether the Pilgrims landed on the rock or on the sands on both sides of it, whether they landed in groups or all together, on Clark's Island first or elsewhere. It has certainly made no difference in the economic or social history of the city of Plymouth for it would have been visited by the reverent whether the landing was on a rock or somewhere else.

People in general, however, demand some outward and visible sign. It is difficult to venerate thin air or a spot on shifting sands; but a rock—that's different. So it was with the faithful in the Middle Ages. Merely to say that the memory of a saint was to be revered was not concrete enough for the untutored. They had to

have something in the way of bones, a column or a ring on a bridge that the holy one had touched. Bones were the thing. It made no difference whether they happened to be the bones of a dog or an ass. It is sufficient to be told by some cleric that they were the bones of the saint. To ask for proofs would be sacrilege just as nowadays it is thought to be an insult to demand that the fiscal officer of some charitable or church organization be bonded.

The truth of the Plymouth Rock story is that no one knows the exact spot where they landed. There is absolutely no evidence in contemporary records to show it. The average seafaring man will tell you that a rock is about the last place that he would choose to land on even when the water is smooth and by all accounts the weather in that early December was far from tranquil. Nevertheless they "may have" landed on the rock, but "may have" is far from saying that we have any proofs. About a century and a quarter had elapsed before anybody heard of the rock so far as contemporary evidence goes and even then there is no real evidence. The very aged and venerable Deacon Ephraim Spooner, who died in Plymouth in 1818, said that he was present on an occasion about 1741 when Elder Faunce, who then was about ninety-five years of age, was carried on a chair to the rock that he might with tears flowing down his cheeks pass down to posterity the testimony of Pilgrims whom he had personally known.

That is all we know, that and the additional real fact that there is no evidence that there was any veneration for the Pilgrim landing place until the beginning of the Revolution when Liberty Poles were being set up. If any of you have had experience with the value as witnesses of the aged you will know how to pass upon such testimony. In fact as with young children there is with the old in their second childhood a period when as witnesses their evidence is valueless. In my own immediate and remote families and in the families of friends I have heard old men and women tell stories about the battles or places they were in during the Civil War that could be absolutely disproven by their own children and the public records. The poor old souls had told the stories so often that they came to believe them. The exaggerated ego of old age was puffed up by the wonderful but unhistorically true tales they could mumble out.

So it is with Plymouth Rock. Our moderns would almost like to picture a happy ship's passenger list drawing up to Plymouth Rock as to a pier in New York harbor and disembarking as in painting and story. Practically indisputable contemporary evidence goes to show that there was no particular spot where they landed, that they used the ship as a place of abode far into the spring of 1621 because they had no houses erected on shore to live in, that they came ashore gradually and in small groups. In other words in this case such evidence as we do have seems to show that they did what our common sense shows we would do under similar conditions of time and place.

Men love the dramatic and we ought to be thankful that they do. Life would be dreary indeed if there were nothing to relieve the dreariness of the drab doings of daily routine. This essential truth is overlooked by our communists and socialists and a study of the communities which they have established shows that it is the ignoring of man's natural craving for variety and for the dramatic which is causing their experiments to collapse.

The events of history are sometimes intensely dramatic and where they are not we are sorely tempted to add embellishments so as to make them so. It is for this reason that historical fiction has more readers than that which we call authentic history, that an erotically dressed up pseudo-historical drama or movie draws larger crowds than those which show a meticulous regard for exact truth.

Nevertheless, there are episodes which are highly dramatic and need no window dressing and there are others to which just the addition of a touch by an artist or a slight re-arrangement of facts adds immensely to the interest of the reader.

No one could have been present at or can read about that meeting of the League of Nations when Germany was admitted and Briand, the greatest orator of our time, made his famous speech without being stirred intensely by the drama which was enacted. Those kinds of episodes need no perversion of the slightest incident to make an appeal to human interest.

An intensely dramatic episode was that in the Virginia House of Burgesses on May 30, 1765, when Patrick Henry made his famous speech against the Stamp Act.[1] Unfortunately we had

[1]See the *American Historical Review* for July 1921, pp. 727 ff.

no shorthand reporters, Associated Press representatives, radios, telegraphs and telephones in those days at Williamsburg. The impassioned Celt however needed no limelight to stimulate his oratory as is evidenced by the first contemporary account, apparently not written by an eyewitness. This was in a private letter from Virginia, dated June 21, 1765, and sent to England. It was published in the *London Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser*, August 13, and thence reprinted in *The General Advertiser for the New York Thursday's Gazette* of October 31, 1765. This anonymous writer says:

Mr.———has lately blazed out in the Assembly, where he compared———to a Tarquin, a Caesar, a Charles the First, threatening him with a Brutus, or an Oliver Cromwell; yet Mr.——— was not sent to the Tower: but having prevailed to get some ridiculous violent Resolves passed, rode off in triumph, some of which Resolves were passed one day and erased the next; and the G———., advised by the Council, thought proper to dissolve the Assembly.

The next statement is that which appeared in a book by Gordon published in 1788:

Upon reading these resolves the Scotch gentlemen in the House cried out treason.

Burk in his *History of Virginia* published in 1805 writes:

"Caesar", said he, "had his Brutus, Charles his Cromwell, and (pausing) George the third (here a cry of treason, treason, was heard, supposed to issue from the chair, but with admirable presence of mind he proceeded) may profit by their examples. Sir, if this be treason," continued he, "make the most of it."

Burk is known to have been an inaccurate narrator when checked up by the records and this must be kept in mind.

In 1817 William Wirt, another florid and not always accurate writer, published his *Life of Patrick Henry* with this account of the speech:

It was in the midst of this magnificent debate, while he was descanting on the tyranny of the obnoxious act, that he exclaimed in a voice of thunder, and with the look of a god, "Caesar had his Brutus—Charles the first, his Cromwell, and George the third—("Treason" cried the speaker—"treason, treason," echoed from every part of the house. It was one of those trying moments which is decisive of character. Henry faltered not an instant; but rising to a loftier attitude, and fixing on the speaker an eye

of the most determined fire, he finished his sentence with the firmest emphasis)—*may profit by their example.* If *this* be treason, make the most of it.

Wirt adds this footnote:

I had frequently heard the above anecdote of the cry of treason, but with such variations of the concluding words, that I began to doubt whether the whole might not be fiction. With a view to ascertain the truth, therefore, I submitted it to Mr. Jefferson, as it had been given to me by Judge Tyler, and this is his answer. "I well remember the cry of treason, the pause of Mr. Henry at the name of George III, and the presence of mind with which he closed his sentence, and baffled the charge vociferated."

Tyler, who was eighteen years of age in 1765, and Jefferson, who was twenty-three, were standing in the door of the House when the speech was being made and spoke from memory. Paul Carrington, a member of the House also, stated that he remembered the event that way.

In some respects the account given by Wirt also agrees with that given by Burk, and Wirt notes this. He elsewhere describes Burk's writings as inaccurate. Evidently in Wirt's time, some fifty-two years after the episode, there were a great many variations as to what the concluding phrases of the speech were. It is unfortunate that Wirt did not pass down to us these variations.

In an unpublished manuscript on the *History of Virginia* written in the early nineteenth century by Edmund Randolph, who died in 1813, he says that the concluding words of one sentence were "and George the Third, may never have either." Randolph himself did not hear the speech, being only a boy of twelve at the time. Both Tyler and Jefferson had forgotten the mention of Tarquin and Brutus although they were present when the speech was made.

The evidence as presented has great interest to us because of the discovery in 1920 in Paris archives of the manuscript journal of a French traveler who made a journey in the colonies in 1764 and 1765 and was present when Henry made his speech. The journal is in English which the Frenchman uses equally well with French. The name of the author is not known. He sets down in his journal the daily happenings beginning with December 4, 1764. The portion of interest to us is that which is under date of May 30, 1765:

May the 30th. Set out Early from halfway house in the Chair and broke fast at York, arrived at Williamsburg at 12, where I saw three Negroes hanging at the galous for haveing robed Mr. Waltho of 300 ps. I went immediately to the assembly which was setting, where I was entertained with very strong Debates Concerning Dutys that the parlement wants to lay on the american Colonys, which they Call or Stile stamp Dutys. Shortly after I Came in one of the members stood up and said he had read that in former times tarquin and Julus had their Brutus, Charles had his Cromwell, and he Did not Doubt but some good american would stand up, in favour of his Country, but (says he) in a more moderate manner, and was going to Continue, when the speaker of the house rose and Said, he, the last that stood up had spoke traison, and was sorey to see that not one of the members of the house was loyal Enough to stop him before he had gone so far. upon which the same member stood up again (his name is henery) and said that if he had afronted the speaker, or the house, he was ready to ask pardon, and he would shew his loyalty to his majesty King G. the third, at the Expence of the last Drop of his blood, but what he had said must be atributed to the Interest of his Countrys Dying liberty which he had at heart, and the heat of passion might have lead him to have said something more than he intended, but, again, if he had said any thing wrong, he beged the speaker and the houses pardon. some other Members stood up and backed him on which that afaire was droped.

And also

May the 31th. I returned to the assembly today, and heard very hot Debates stil about the Stamp Dutys. the whole house was for Entering resolves on the records but they Differed much with regard the Contents or purport thereof. some were for shewing their resentment to the highest. one of the resolves that these proposed, was that any person that would offer to sustain that the parlement of Engl'd had a right to impose or lay any tax or Dutys whats'r on the american Colonys, without the Consent of the inhabitants thereof, Should be looked upon as a traitor, and Deemed and Enemy to his Country. there were some others to the same purpose, and the majority was for Entering these resolves, upon which the Governor Disolved the assembly, which hindered their proceeding.

The Kings Berth Night which was on the tuesday follow'g, was given by the lieutenant governor mr. faquier. I went there in Expectation of seing a great Deal of Company, but was Disappointed for there was not above a Dozen people. I came away before super.

June 6th. there was a great deal said about the Noble Patriot Mr. Henery, who lives in this Country, the whole Inhabitants

say publiqly that if the least Injury was ofered to him they'd stand by him to the last Drop of their blood. Some of them muter betwixt their teeth, let the worst Come to the worst we'l call the french to our succor; and if they were in Canada the British parlem't would as soon be Dd. as to offer to do what they do now. the Country hereabouts is fine and pleas't.

This affords one of the most effective studies in tradition and history that can be had. On some points virtually all agree. It is on the closing phrases that there were many varying accounts as Wirt says. To rely on memory of what took place forty or more years before is risky. The appeal of the dramatic is so tempting. The after dinner speaker so often thinks of the good things he might have said had he thought of them at the time, but frequently they are repeated to his wife as actually said. As a matter of fact no one in the early nineteenth century could recall accurately the very words which were spoken. Had those witnesses and hearers actually written down at the time the words which were said they would probably nearly agree with what the French diarist has written. This document has every evidence of being genuine. There is no conceivable reason for anyone forging it and had anyone so desired he could not have been clever enough to give all of the internal and external signs of genuineness.

The discovery does not detract one iota from Henry's fame or influence. Whatever he may have said, dramatic or undramatic, the resolves of the House of Burgesses and his speech would have had just as much influence on stirring men's virtues and passions. We do feel a little bit disappointed that his closing words were not so fiery as we thought they were, especially those expressing his loyalty to King George. Our greatest sorrow, however, is for Mayor Thompson of Chicago if he ever happens to read this humble paper.

It is commonly believed that Washington seated on his horse and under an elm tree on the Common in Cambridge, Massachusetts, took command of the Continental Army in 1775. To this belief is added a tale that this was done midst the booming of guns and the marching of troops generally incident to such an occasion. To commemorate this event the tree under which he is said to have taken command was zealously cared for and preserved down to within a few years. Its remains were then removed and only the marker left.

We appreciate that it made no essential difference in history whether Washington took command of the army under that tree or some other one. As a legend it has afforded the people that outward and visible sign which the populace always craves.

Being descended from a military family myself it always impressed me as an odd kind of thing to do. At least I never saw any officer taking over a command under a tree. Then the pictured event represented the tree as an already elderly elm in 1775 so that by the time its remains were removed a few years ago it would have shown an age much greater than elms are known to live. This, however, was not supported by the rings in a cross section of the trunk when the dendrologists counted them. Their computations seemed to show that the particular tree could only have been a mere sapling in 1775, if it was alive at all. On the other side, however, it is only fair to state that trees cease to acquire their annulations after an advanced age and that the tree at Cambridge had been standing virtually dead for many years.

So far as contemporary evidence is concerned there is absolutely none to show that Washington took command of the army under a tree. In fact there is none to show that he took command in the dramatic and formal manner ordinarily conceived. A colleague of mine and fellow student at Harvard, Mr. S. F. Batchelder, a few years ago gave the whole subject a most careful study. He surveyed every bit of contemporary evidence available in print or in manuscript form. He consulted every orderly book (the books containing the orders for each day) known to be in existence. The results of this study published in the Cambridge *Tribune* seemed to show that Washington did not take command of the army with a blare of trumpets and a booming of guns. He seems to have just slipped in quietly and taken command like the wise and careful general he was—sly old fox as Howe was wont to call him. Can we suppose for a minute, especially in view of the absolute lack of evidence to the contrary, that Washington, the most careful of the careful would have permitted the waste of so much as a dram of powder to boom his coming when it was the article most needed by his army at the time? He had too much common sense to do a thing like that, and to believe that he did otherwise would be to take from us our belief in his wisdom,

which is of far greater importance than the legendary account of his taking command in the form of a pageant.

Mr. Batchelder goes further and shows the origin of this booming of guns story in the writings of a certain lady who was evidently much more interested in historical embroidery than in historical truth. Her tale in a way reminds me of the teacher who was trying to impress on her pupils the scene at the time of the delivery of Lincoln's address at Gettysburg with these words: "Can't you just see his majestic figure and hear that sonorous voice as he spoke those words." Much as we love Lincoln, truth does compel us to admit that he was far from majestic and that his voice was high pitched and almost squeaky.

As with events so with many of our legendary sayings of great men. There is good reason to doubt if the idea intended to be conveyed by such sayings as "Millions for Defence but not One Cent for Tribute," "Don't Give Up the Ship," and many others were ever couched in just those words at the time they were said to have been delivered.

Our own country, however, does not stand alone either in the making of or belief in legends. Europe has them in her history by the hundreds. These like our own are mainly about non-essentials, but some as with us have made a great difference in her political, economic, ecclesiastical and literary history.

According to our Mohammedan friends it was the legends about Jesus and not his ethical and moral teachings that changed the course of the world's history, helped to disrupt the Roman Empire, deluged Europe in blood, tortured men and women on the rack and burned them at the stake. Mankind was willing to die for the mystical doctrine of the Trinity, but would not have responded with enthusiasm for such ethical principles as were involved in turning the other cheek or loving your enemies.

Peter's presence at Rome may not be capable of proof but belief in it through post-Roman times was one of the strongest factors in making Rome the center of the Christian world of Western Europe, and all that that implies even down to our own day.

Numerous legendary, though not proven, sites of burial places in Europe such as that of St. James at the present Santiago de Compostela in Spain had such far reaching influences for centuries. Even in our own day a vision of the Virgin related by a girl in a

cave at Lourdes has added to the profits of railroads, innkeepers, real estate owners, and to the commercial and industrial growth of that community generally.

The legends about Roland, the only mention of whom in authentic history is in Einhard's little Life of Charlemagne, have made volumes of the literature of Western Europe.

Throughout the Middle Ages, when rulers received their kingdoms by descent, legends were started by selfish interests so that pretenders to the thrones were set up and revolts and wars took place. For centuries it was believed that Philip Augustus of France deprived King John of the Duchy of Normandy because of the murder of King Arthur whereas the French historian Bemont has shown that Arthur was living when Philip summoned John to court and that the real reason for the summons was that John had run away with the wife of one of Philip's vassals. John's failure to obey this summons was the reason for declaring him in contempt and depriving him of his lands.

Legends circulated about the visits of explorers have led to claims of various nations to great tracts of colonial territory and eventually resulted in great wars. Our own early history considered as a part of that of Europe affords examples too numerous to mention. Perhaps the latest was that relating to Marcus Whitman which almost involved us in war with Great Britain under the famous slogan of "54–40 or fight." We accepted 49 and in 1901 Professor Bourne showed the legendary character of the tales of Whitman on which we based our claims.

The sedulous propaganda of legends about Napoleon, generally called the Napoleonic Myth, during the second quarter of the nineteenth century contributed much to the election of his grandnephew as president of the French republic and the portentous events which grew out of that election, even down to the present time, can only be left to the imagination.

That which has been said of legends or traditions is equally true of anecdotes. There is no denying that our historians and biographers in their search for truth have been altogether too prone to omit anecdotes authentic and otherwise. This is truly to be lamented for nothing so effectively impresses the memory and attracts the interest as a well told story. It is well to have it authentic if possible, but many anecdotes which may not be suc-

ceptible of proof none the less illustrate the character of a man or an event.

Anecdotes about the great men of history—Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, Luther, Frederick the Great, Napoleon, Lincoln and others—are numerous; many of them are true and others pure fabrications. If the latter are labeled as such they will do no harm to the reader and may do much in getting him to read really good history.

In an old French composition book which I read as a boy an anecdote was told about Napoleon which fixed in my mind for all time two characteristics of that great man: his sensitiveness about his short stature and his jealousy of those who would presume to hint that there was anyone superior to him in position.

The story, with which many of you are undoubtedly familiar, runs that he was in his library trying to get a book which was on a shelf out of his reach. One of his marshals entered and seeing the Emperor's difficulty said: "Permit me, your Majesty, I am plus haut (taller, higher) than you." To which the Emperor quickly retorted, "You are plus longue (longer)."

To anyone who is ambitious to write a book I may say from long experience that there is no greater need today than a dictionary or encyclopedia of legends and anecdotes to which the layman, teacher or even college instructor may turn to cull illustrative material to tell in the class room concerning characters and events about which they are teaching their students in the field of strictly truthful history.

In this sense we must agree with the reviewer whose words we quoted at the beginning of this paper. Edward Dowden, who wrote a life of Shelley, which for many years was characterized as the most perfect biography ever written, used authentic anecdotes which gave to the reader never to be forgotten impressions of that impulsive and unique genius. Such, if we may interpret the wishes of the reviewer, are what he desired in the two lives of Lafayette which he undertook the task, evidently not the pleasure, of reviewing.

Nevertheless history is not a collection of legends such as he testily calls it. It is the eternal search for truth and such patient search frequently results in showing that that which we regarded as mere tradition was actual truth. No better illustration of the

above can be had than that which is afforded by a study made by one of our own members, Mrs. George Van Duzer of Warwick in Orange county. With the spirit of the searcher after truth she determined to find out, if possible, whether Washington had been entertained at Baird's Tavern in that village on July 27, 1782, as had been the common tradition for generations. We are treated to so many tales of these entertainment places for Washington that general scepticism had grown up about all. Mrs. Van Duzer like a true historian set out to prove the truth or the falsity of the story. She published the results of her really laborious researches in the collection of Historical Papers issued in 1914 by the Historical Society of the Town of Warwick. I will not here repeat the full story of how her researches took her to West Point, New York City and eventually to the Treasury Department at Washington. There in a small trunk of papers and in the Moravian Archives in the Library of Congress her search was rewarded. The expense accounts of Washington's two aides, Colonel Trumbull and Major Walker, endorsed by Washington himself showed that they had refreshed themselves at Baird's Tavern in Warwick on the day mentioned. Sad to relate one item in the refreshment was nine shillings for grog. Had the Father of His Country been living today and running for office we wonder if he would have sought to destroy that besmirching document so that he might swear by Almighty God that he never touched a drop.

Would that we had more local historians like this lady of Warwick who refused to pass along a tradition which could not be proven but preferred to suffer as every true historian must suffer the agony of suspended judgment.

JAMES SULLIVAN

FREDERIC REMINGTON; WITH EXTRACTS FROM UNPUBLISHED LETTERS[1]

Remington was only fifty years old when he died (1909) but even so he is to me a master in three fields—1st, cowboy (red Indian, U. S. Cavalry); 2nd, sculpture; 3rd, Arizona color effect in oil.

In 1892 we were expelled from Russia, after having ineffectually attempted a start in two canoes down the Volga and thus to the Caspian. General H. T. Allen, who commanded the American Army of Occupation after the Great War, was then military attache in St. Petersburg, but could not help us.

Remington was transparently honest and sensitive. He had no words in talking, save the cowboy vernacular current on the Mexican border, but when he chose, he could wield his pen with force and simplicity. Today his greatness may be under momentary eclipse, but I would recommend such as are so fortunate as to possess a Remington to treasure it against the time when once more his work shall be appreciated.

The letters here quoted show us a Remington who was anticipating the "Great War" from year to year—and with great impatience. He was thirty years of age before ever visiting Europe. Nor is it exaggeration to add that he entertained rather a lofty contempt for American artists who thought they could learn anything outside of these United States.

We met first as Yale undergraduates—before 1879; and the friendship there formed grew ever stronger until the very end of his life. Some of the features of that life I have already printed in my autobiography—Seventy Summers, published by Longmans & Co., New York—and therefore need not reproduce them in an historical bulletin of this character. Some day we shall doubtless have a formal and adequate biography of this remarkable artist whose memorial is now in the shape of a worthy museum of Remingtoniana in Ogdensburg on the St. Lawrence, near to his birthplace. Meanwhile, however, I offer here some letters that have never before been printed and which illumine one side of his recklessly frank, fearless and immensely lovable nature.

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[1]Being a portion of the address intended for the meeting of the New York State Historical Association in this year 1928 at Watertown, N. Y., by Poultney Bigelow, M.A., F.R.G.S.

"New Rochelle. Jan. 5, 1892. Things are badly out of joint in the U. S. The West and South and East are fighting each other in Congress. This sectional difference is inevitable and will increase. It bears danger in it to the Republic. The Republican and Democratic parties are disintegrating."

Perhaps one reason for American optimism arises from the frequency of such opinions expressed for more than a century past. We have gone, metaphorically, to the devil at every presidential election.

"June 1892. London. My dear Bigelow. I have got some London clothes and am a very nice young man but have great difficulty with the cab drivers whose pronunciation of English is so different from mine. You should hear me tell a cabbie to go to the Bath Hotel—you would think I had two sweetbreads in my throat."

This may seem exaggeration, but I have seen Englishmen totally at a loss to understand the speech of Remington—indeed some did not recognize it as being our common language—perhaps it was not. But it was at least Remingtonian.

"May 1893. New Rochelle. Just got your chapter on the Russian Jew" (for Borderland of Czar and Kaiser). "Very interesting and dead right—make all the Maxies (sic) crazy and red in the face, but they can't get hunk (sic) with a white man, 'cept quit lending him money—and *we* don't want money—hey, old man! Never will be able to sell a picture to a Jew again—did sell one once.

"You can't glorify a Jew—I am a hero worshipper—(illegible) nasty humans—I've got some Winchesters and when the massacreing begins, I can get my share of 'em and what's more, I will.

"Jews, Injuns, Chinamen, Italians, Huns—the rubbish of the Earth—I hate.

"Our race is full of sentiment—we got to thinking so far ahead that we are not always practical, and we invite the 'rinsins, the scourins and the Devil's lavins' to come to us and be *men*—something they haven't been, most of them, these hundreds of years.

"I don't care a d—n how a man gets to Heaven—how he takes care of his soul—whether he has one or not. Its all nothing to me. But I do care how he votes and lives and fights; and, as sure as shooting, we will some day reap the reward of our humanitarianism which is folly.

"These Russians have none of that, and despite the fact that we don't like them, they will 'get thar' and with both feet. They are fresh, vital, can stand starvation, cholera, bad Government, war—all the tests. They are conquerors, colonizers, they have abated the Jew and they defy the world. I rather admire them. You will, when you are 87 years old and if you don't drink more whiskey than you do, you will live that long."

As we read Remington's diatribes against nations and races, we must bear in mind that he knew of them only the poorest; and perhaps those whom their families were glad to ship across the ocean. Let not therefore the honorable Chinaman or Italian be offended any more than is a member of the Century Club when he hears Lord Macaulay say that it is the mission of America to *vulgarize* the world.

"New Rochelle, N. Y., August 19, 1893. "——but I am afraid I shall never grow to like Europe—the language is not as good as English and my bump of reverence is a hole.

"But the War! I'll do that—English or no English."

Like many another of his age and craft, Remington never learned a foreign language, nor ever desired to.

"April 18th, 1893. Got through the German Consul General of New York a photograph of the Kaiser inscribed in illegible handwriting; and a note from the AmbassadorVon Holleben in Washington. Its in the Cuirassier uniform. I acknowledged the courtesy to the Ambassador in a letter so formal and cold that you could freeze beef on it. I am proud of the distinction and thank you, for I think that your fine 'Italian' hand has manipulated the secret springs."

William II recognized the genius of Remington as he did that of Mahan, of Mark Twain, of Edison, of Henry M. Stanley. A long chapter could be made by the mere mention of the many who had received timely encouragement at the hands of His German Majesty. He encouraged art and science vastly more than did Louis XIV.

"Got the pictures of the German Emperor—it has a brass frame —Imperial Arms—a lot of lingo which I can't read or any German who has yet tried. I suppose there is no insulting language in it—it even may be an expression of good will—but it's lost forever! Some Egyptologist in two or three hundred years may go at it with

a microscope, but alas!—I—well—I wrote a letter to the German Ambassador in Washington and said all I dared say."

"1895. New Rochelle. So you're off on a canal boat (house boat) now—that looks odd. Look out for the cholera—those nasty European sewers are dirty. I am going on a six week's hunt on the Ottawa river.

"I wish you wouldn't try to jolly me about the (German) Emperor. He never heard of me in his existence. But when you Europeans get your two eyes on my bronze you will say: 'Ah! there! America has got a winner!' It's the biggest business I ever did, and if some of these rich sinners over here will cough up and buy a couple of dozen, I will go into the mud business.

"I can't learn German and that's settled. I might as well try back flip flaps (hand springs?) or total abstinence. Get me over to your d—d old war if you can, and I won't talk anything but English—and that can't do any harm in Germany, if I remember rightly."

"New Rochelle. August 19th, 1893. Every one is hiding behind a financial mask of *painted figures* and promises, and clearing house certificates go for gold. To tell the truth, things are badly out of joint here; and, with a lot of *retained* attorneys, who are senators, I do not see how the people are going to get what they want.

"There is an era of unrest here and no man can foresee the future.

"In hard times the Crank comes to the fore in America and it is near impossible to suppress him. We have so few traditions in America, and busted people are willing to attempt any scheme which promises a change—taking all chances that it may be for the worse.

"I think that in time we Americans will have to take down our Winchesters from over the fire place and 'clear up' a lot of garbage that Europe has sent us.

"I have an imported Irish hunter 'be God'—am the best mounted man in Westchester County, N. Y."

"Nov. 4th, 1893. It looks to a man up a tree just as though there would be a scrap in the Spring . . . . I think the Russian border is our place—two horses apiece and an orderly, I suppose. Tell me how best I can go at this thing, since I'm going to see that war if I have to enlist.

"P. S. There's some d—n good fighting going on down in Morocco but Harper's won't let me go."

"November 1894. Dear Bigelow. Every once in a while some chump or some *very great man*, writes me and tells me I *will do!*

"Personally I have never done this thing—of course I have, d—n you! But that's brotherly love—you do it for me. If I knew where Du Maurier lived I would write him. I never did a thing like that before, but *Trilby* is so great that by G—d every man living ought to thank a genius like the Creator. Send my letter to him—its little but its my soul—and I don't get crazy over every d—d monk who slings ink."

What if Remington had lived the life of an art student in Paris amongst men akin to Du Maurier, Sargent, Birge Harrison, Carrol Beckwich, Paul Bartlett? The result would have been an artist of high quality, but there would have been no cowboy, no red Indians, no U. S. Dragoons on the war path, no Mexican border types! He would have spoken the *rive gauche argot* and probably written and spoken with more academic exactitude, but we would have lost something that no European *atelier* could supply. He hated schools of all kind—hated every sort of regulation—loved the life of a primitive man and lived only in hope of being one day part of a great European war. From the time he came to New York in 1891, after his disastrous ranching experiments, until the (to him) very disappointing Spanish war, he was incessantly predicting the Great War in Europe. But already in 1898 he was too fat and soft for serious campaigning. The remaining ten years of his life were at the home fire side.

"May 15, 1894. Well, you old hearse driver, Alden (editor of Harpers Magazine) has been mentally paralyzed by receiving a MSS from you. In his ravings he told me it was *invisible* ("out of sight"). He had his feet on the desk—a cigar going forty miles an hour, and his eyes twinkled while his best grin played over the Bigelow MSS. He said you were good stuff but too d—d lazy to lie quiet in a grave. Give us another—and another and yet more!"

"The latest news is that I haven't had a drink in three weeks and aint going to have any more till I am about to die, when, after consultation of physicians I am going to take one martini cocktail before I go up the Golden stairs. I feel better.

"Have been up north for two weeks in training. Did fifteen miles a day on foot and am down to 210 lbs. I have been sick for two years and didn't know it.

"Too much rum. Give Astor Hell!"

The above reference is to W. W. Astor who resigned from every American Club or philanthropical organization in order to acquire the title of British subject. Some people criticized Henry James for becoming British—but James was already English in blood and habits and he merely put legal seal on documents familiar to his friends for half a century.

"May 21, 1894. My dear Bigelow. Have just read your 'Arabian Day and Night'; proud to know you Sir!—Great honor I assure you—bound to be a very great man! I alway said that you could weed out of your head that d—d genius for facts, (which there are no such things)—those maps, etc., you can be a magazine writer of the first water.

"Of course you are lazy—that may have been only an evidence of genius; but if you can do such work right along, I can't see how there can be any insect life on you. Yours faithfully, Frederic Remington.

"P. S. I'm going to do a *belly dance* which will bring the tears to the eyes of old ladies."

There is an American slang—*no flies on you*—intended to be complimentary. Remington makes a cow boy variation.

The above quoted letter has to do with our trip amongst the French Cavalry posts in North Africa and some articles which I subsequently contributed to Harpers Magazine. Those who knew Remington will doubtless admit that it was easier for me to handle native mobs in that country than curb the whims of my pal. Our lives were more than once in danger merely because of his linguistic helplessness linked with a hereditary contempt for any custom that was not of New England or Mexican origin.

"May 18, 1895. I have concluded, or did conclude some time since, to quit drinking. I reasoned that I had had all of that kind of fun that one man could expect to have and do anything else; so I cut square off and feel better. But I am not a d—d bit sorry about any drink I ever had. I only hope to die sane enough to feel that whatever I do is all right, since I *mean* to do right."

There is a vile habit amongst editorial hacks of suppressing biographical details that might cause legal trouble or family vengeance. We who pay high prices for the story of a notable, wish to know what may properly be published—provided such matter has a bearing on his failure or success. In my own experience, about half of those whom I should consider the most interesting and also most lovable of my friends have been helped into the grave by alcoholic stimulant. This is more true of Americans than English—life here is more electric—the speed higher—greater extremes of exhilaration and afterslump. Remington should normally have been alive today and riding to hounds or taking long walks in the mountains. He was happily married, and, as we have seen, she made his life over again so far as that was possible, but her influence commenced too late.

There are such as for political or for commercial or for social reasons deny that they ever took a drop too much. I see no good reason for pretending that I have never been drunk. Most healthy men find it hygienically wholesome to give their systems a good shock now and then, though few make public announcement on the subject. Remington was convivial as are most of my contemporaries—but when I recall Fred Remington on the Yale football team of 1879 and then in his coffin before passing his 50th birthday—its a sad fact. His was a noble soul!

"1896. January 28. My dear Poultney. Just home from Cuba. Saw more Hell there than I ever read about—went for N. Y. *Journal* (Hearst syndicate)—small pox—typhus—yellow-jack—dishonesty—suffering beyond measure.

"Your South African stuff is artistic for once—not exactly for once, old man; but you are a little hard in the head—and if I had you on your back in a dark room you would admit it! *Paddles and Politics down the Danube* is your greatest art work. Am on the water wagon for fair and working like a madman. You'll never help bury me, old hoss! I'm beating the game slowly—surely—and only hope that I may never be rich, 'cause I don't think I would be any g—d d—d common good if I had money."

"1897. I am riding bike—its great fun. Everyone in America is riding bike. It makes the grease come out of a fellow and is the greatest thing to produce a thirst for beer—besides, any one can desecrate the Sabbath on a bike and be forgiven by the other U. S.

As.—who all do the same. In that respect it is like going to Hell—everyone is there whom I like."

"August 9th, 1897. No, honey, I shall not try Europe again. I am not built right—I hate parks—collars—cuffs—foreign languages—cut and dried stuff. Europe is all right for most everybody but me—I am going to do America—its new—its to my taste. I am writing short stories—got a hummer in next Harper magazine—dialect, by G—d, and that will give Alden a hemorage unless its a top roper. Have been catching trout and killing deer—feel bully—absolutely on the water wagon, but it don't agree with me. I am at 240 lbs. and nothing can stop me but an incurable disease.

"Your house boat sounds attractive but I suppose the policeman walking around you all night must keep you awake—and instead of the woodmen's call in the morning you hear *milk below!*—Oh! I sometimes think you have sentiment, but its of a d—n musty sort."

Only the year before his death, I drove my pair of horses the sixty miles that separate our two country homes—and with him I spent a happy few days. He had created his ideal studio at Ridgefield, Connecticut—one so large that he could have a cavalry man mounted—as his model. He talked of the future joyously—he felt on the threshold of a new world—he was coming into his own.

POULTNEY BIGELOW
Malden-on-Hudson

OBITUARIES

Dr. Charles F. Wheelock, former Assistant Commissioner of Education of the State of New York, passed away at his home in Canajoharie, N. Y., on November 4, 1928, after an extended illness. In his death New York State lost one of its best known educators, one who for nearly fifty years had been prominently identified with its educational interests.

Charles F. Wheelock was born October 17, 1849, in the town of Litchfield, Herkimer County, the son of Danford and Margaret (Cummings) Wheelock. He came from a family of early educators of the colonial period which included Eleazor Wheelock and his son John, the first two presidents of Dartmouth College.

Dr. Wheelock was educated in the "little red school house" at Litchfield, at Whitestown Seminary at Whitesboro, and at Cornell University, from which institution he was graduated in 1873 with the degree of bachelor of science. He taught school first in Newville, Herkimer County, and then at Cedarville where he had a private school for two years. On January 1, 1876, he became school commissioner and served in the southern district of Herkimer county until 1879, having the distinction of being the only Democrat elected to that office in that district.

On January 1, 1880, he went to Canajoharie as principal of the high school, continuing in that capacity until October 1891 when he entered the Regents office in Albany as inspector and examiner in mathematics. He served in various educational capacities, during the last twelve years being Assistant Commissioner for Secondary Education. He retired July 1, 1923, after a half century of active and continuous educational work in the state. In recognition of his many years of faithful service, he was tendered a dinner at Albany by the schoolmen of the state, and was presented with a handsomely bound volume of nearly one thousand personal letters written to him by friends and co-workers in the Empire State. Following his retirement he devoted one hour gratis each day to teaching a class in mathematics at the Canajoharie High School.

Dr. Wheelock was a gifted orator and was heard on many occasions in various parts of the state at high school and college commencements, and at other gatherings of an educational, re-

ligious or civic nature. He was given the degree of LL.D. by St. Lawrence University, and in 1922 Alfred University conferred upon him the degree of Ph.D. He was also honored by being elected honorary president of the Associated Academic Principals of the State.

He was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa fraternity; the Schoolmasters Club; the National Educational Association; Hamilton Lodge, No. 79, F. and A. M., of which he was the oldest living past master; Utica Commandery No. 3 K. T.; and Canajoharie Council No. 1444 Royal Arcanum. While in Albany he allied himself with the First Unitarian Society, of which he was president for several years. He was also attendant and contributor of the First Reformed Church at Canajoharie.

For several years Dr. Wheelock was a member of the municipal board of the village of Canajoharie, being one of the original members, and he gave untiringly of his time to the advancement of municipal affairs. He made several surveys of various plots of land in the village and when Wheelock Street was laid out, it was named after him in recognition of his services.

Dr. Wheelock's wife, Mary Finehout Wheelock, died on October 20th, just fifteen days previous to his death. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Bert H. Bower of Canajoharie, and one son, Dr. Willard H. Wheelock of Rockville Center, L. I.

NOTICES AND REVIEWS OF BOOKS

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. I. Ed. by Allen Johnson. (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928. Pp. 660. $12.50.)

After all real history is found in people rather than institutions. And it is surprising how quickly the main facts about a man or woman of considerable prominence at one time will evaporate. On all sides it was apparent that a new American Biographical Dictionary was needed. Realizing the situation the American Council of Learned Societies undertook the publication and appointed an editorial staff headed by Allen Johnson. Adolph S. Ochs, publisher of the *New York Times*, supplied $500,000 to carry out the project. A long list of trustworthy contributors was selected and the work started. This first volume gives promise of a Biographical Dictionary that will be authoritative and more inclusive than any previous publication. Only persons living within the territory now known as the United States and who have made some significant contribution to American civilization are included. The "average or merely typical" are not given a place. Volume I begins with Cleveland Abbe and ends with Maurice Barrymore. New Yorkers are liberally represented. No doubt there will be criticism for both omissions and inclusions. But the material presented, so far as examined, is fresh and much of it hitherto unused.

A. C. F.

Letter Book of John Watts, Merchant and Councillor of New York, January 1, 1762–December 22, 1765. Ed. by Alexander J. Wall. (New York Historical Society, New York, 1928. Pp. 448.)

The New York Historical Society has continued the high merit of its publications in issuing these Watts letters. John Watts was one of the prominent men in New York for several decades before the American Revolution. His wide family and business relations made his letters of more than ordinary significance. Moreover he was a shrewd observer of colonial and imperial affairs and wrote with ease and authority. He was a man of forty-five when this series of letters was written. An excellent sketch of his family prepared by Dorothy C. Barck is given in the introduction and shows that his family was one of distinction.

Not only was John Watts a merchant of prominence but he also entered colonial politics representing New York City in the Assembly and Council. He helped to found the New York Society Library and served as a Governor of Kings College. At the outbreak of the War of Independence he sailed for England where he remained until his death in 1789. Because of his loyalty to the integrity of the British Empire his estates in New York were confiscated and he was included in the Act of Attainder in 1779.

This Letter Book was presented to the New York Historical Society in 1918 by Philip J. Kearny, a great-great-grandson of John Watts. For historical purposes the letters are an important contribution to American, and especially to New York, colonial history. They supplement the Papers of Sir William Johnson now being printed by the New York State Historian. Among the prominent men of the day whose names appear in the letters are Abercrombie, John Aberdeen, James Agnew, William Alexander, William Allen, Sir Jeffery Amherst, Col. William Amherst, Thomas Astin, Sir William Baker, Isaac Barre, Col. William Byrd, Cadwallader Colden, Henry Cruger, the DeLanceys, James Duane, the Franklins, Thomas Gage, Josiah Hardy, the Johnsons, Robert Monckton, the Riddells, the Smiths, and the Wattses.

Equally important are the subjects treated: colonial agents in London, African slaves, agriculture, amusements, the British army, trade in the Barbadoes, banking and bills of exchange, the boundaries of New York, relations with Canada, conditions in the American colonies, commerce, war supplies, the rum business, American customs, trade in flour and pork, France and Spain, the policy of the mother country in dealing with the colonies, dealings with the Indians, education and literature in America, manufactures, money, the effects of the French and Indian War, shipping, taxation, and the consumption of wines.

By the printing of this volume new source materials of much value on the pre-Revolutionary period have been placed at the elbow of the student of history. This new light will permit new interpretations to be made in the period preceding the conflict which resulted in the first dissolution of the British Empire and in the creation of the United States of America.

A. C. F.

The James Gordon Bennetts, Father and Son. By Don C. Seitz. (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1928. Pp. 406. $5.00.)

Don C. Seitz has already established himself as an unusual biographer. One looks with eager anticipation to the appearance of a new analysis of a public character from his pen. This is the story of a newspaper dynasty—the longest in America—for the *New York Herald* was the possession of the Bennetts, Senior and Junior, for eighty-three years. But their influence was not restricted to the management of a great modern newspaper because through it they helped to make American and world history.

The elder James Gordon Bennett was a genius for organization and as a result was rewarded with unusual prosperity. He relied upon his own ability instead of friendly bankers. Enemies and competition only spurred him on to greater accomplishments. He made a place for himself in American politics and became a world figure. He matched wits against the shrewd P. T. Barnum and defeated him. The Oregon settlement was carried to England in his pocket. President James Buchanan was his friend, and his alliance was sought for and obtained by President Lincoln. He made his newspaper one of the most powerful factors in forming public opinion in the nation, and was fearless in his exposures for the welfare of the people.

If Bennett Senior, through his genius, established a great newspaper, Bennett Junior kept it great until too old to continue the management. They not only created a newspaper dynasty but they ruled it most successfully as autocrats for 83 years. It prospered under "The Commodore" as the Younger was called, as it did under his father. Its importance if any thing increased. His employees may have trembled for their heads yet they were loyal and gloried in their master's success. He brooked no disloyalty and ruthlessly discharged "indispensables." Nor did he permit his mighty newspaper to absorb all his interest. He had his eye on world affairs. "Find Livingstone," he commanded Stanley, and Livingstone was found. His sportsmanship was notable. An unfortunate duel drove him into exile.

This illiuminating volume forms the completion of a trilogy by the author—Pulitzer, recreator of the *World;* Greeley, founder of the *Tribune;* and the two Bennetts, "Autocrat and Satrap,"

owners of the *Herald*. It is a masterful book, interesting from cover to cover, and constitutes an important chapter in the political and cultural history of the State of New York.

A. C. F.

The Stammering Century, Eccentricity and Fanaticism in the U. S. By Gilbert Seldes. (The John Day Company, New York, 1928. Pp. 414. $5.)

Here is a unique history of the nineteenth century. It opens with the great religious revivals and closes with the "Complex of Radicalism." The author, born in New Jersey, is a New Yorker by adoption. The major events are deliberately omitted, and the minor movements, cults and manias are stressed. For once at least the Prohibitionists, Pentecostalists, diet-faddists, fundamentalists, dealers in mail-order personality, play-censors, theosophists, free-lovers, eugenists, and all sorts of cranks and saints who constitute the "booboisie," are given the lime light. The author finds that the astonishing thing about all these quackeries, fads and isms of the past century is that they have been accepted first by superior men and women and then taken up by the masses. He treats them seriously as the abnormalities of a normal life. "The reforming temperament" is the central theme which he seeks seriously to display in this unusual book. It was Horace Greeley who called the hundred years which ended in 1900 the "stammering century." The first ten chapters are devoted to religious movements and cults, among whom are the Shakers and Mormons so closely identified with New York. An informing chapter deals with John Humphrey Noyes and the Oneida Community. Bronson Alcott is described as "An Apostle of the Newness," William Lloyd Garrison is discussed under the title of "A Saint" and Francis E. Willard as "The Winsome Heart," while Carrie A. Nation was "A Moral High Jacker." "Women Reformers" are followed by spiritualists, New Thoughters, and Christian Science. The book closes with an account of John Alexander Dowie and the "Kingdom of God in Chicago." Altogether it is a volume of serious thought and absorbing interest, and well worth reading.

A. C. F.

Cotton Mather, Keeper of Puritan Conscience. By RALPH and LOUISE BOAS. (Harper & Brothers, New York, 1928. Pp. 271. $3.50.)

The New England Puritans had much more to do with the fashioning of social and religious standards and ideals in the province of New York than is commonly believed. During his lifetime it was difficult to say where on Long Island and along the eastern border of New York New England influences ceased and those of New England began. Later on New Englanders emigrated to the province of New York and carried with them their New England consciences and bias. Cotton Mather was born in 1663 just as England was making a conquest of New Netherland and his life spanned that interesting period of the anglicizing of the Dutch which had practically ended in 1728 when he died. Consequently New Yorkers will welcome the opportunity to know more about the man whose name is so closely associated with the persecution of witches at Salem but who was far from the bigoted fool his enemies painted him. The authors paint him as a man of blameless rectitude, with a charming personality, and indeed one of the most famous Puritans of his day. He was a bashful stuttering child, and at twelve entered Harvard, where he was persecuted in all sorts of prankish ways by fellow students. Later on some of them were his most bitter enemies. He earned his A. B. in 1678 and the next year joined the church. At first he thought of studying medicine but at eighteen he was pastor of a church. When able to preach "an Hour and a three quarters" his father ordained him in 1685. He married Abigail Philips at the age of twenty-three and was soon the father of three girls. He did his best to understand the alleged witches and came to the conclusion that the devil was back of the whole business. When the witchcraft trials, which he approved, ended in 1793, he devoted himself to preaching and politics. Slavery he countenanced but believed the conversion of slaves atoned for any evil there might be in the institution. His *Ecclesiastical History of New England* printed in 1702 entitles him to a place in American literature. Being defeated for the presidency of Harvard he consoled himself by taking a second wife, his first wife having died some years before. In 1710 the University of Glasgow conferred upon him the honorary degree of D. D. His second wife died in 1713

and he forthwith married a widow as his third wife. When he died he was the most famous preacher in Massachusetts, honored abroad, the author of hundreds of publications, and the recognized intellectual leader of his day. Yet his influence upon the succeeding generation was but slight.

A. C. F.

History of the Grange in Vermont. By GUY B. HORTON. (Vermont State Grange, Montpelier, Vt., 1926. Pp. 120. $2.00.)

This little volume is an excellent example of an attempt to rescue from oblivion the story of an institution whose records have been regarded with indifference. As a result the author found that his task was begun "at least a decade too late" because much of the data that might have been obtained earlier had been destroyed either through neglect or by intent. Consequently the history of the Grange in Vermont is told in a desultory manner. The permanent organization was formed in 1871 and it soon became popular among the more progressive farmers of the Green Mountain State. By 1880 seven counties had established local granges. The *Vermont Record and Farmer* of Brattleboro became the organ of the Grange but the death of its editor caused its suspension. The *Rural Vermonter* succeeded it in 1886 as the Grange organ of news. Another interesting phase of the activity of the Grange was the establishment of cooperative Grange stores but the experiment met with indifferent success. The experiment in cooperative fire insurance was more successful and nearly five million dollars of fire insurance is still in force. The Grange has been a warm champion of agricultural education. In 1823 at the annual session of the Grange at Montpelier "The Story of the Grange" was depicted in an impressive and instructive pageant. The second portion of this volume is devoted to biographical sketches of the Grange leaders and to a directory of officers and members.

A. C. F.

Whither Mankind: A Panorama of Modern Civilization. Ed. by CHARLES A. BEARD. (Longmans, Green and Co., New York, 1928. Pp. 408. $3.00.)

No one should be so deeply interested in the past that he renders himself so incompetent that he cannot live in the present or look towards the future. This book is an antidote for one thus afflicted. It is optimistic and does not preach the doctrine of despair. It is stimulating and wholesome reading. New Yorkers have had a prominent part in its preparation. Dr. Charles A. Beard is not only the editor but has written a thoughtful introduction and an epilogue. Hendrick Willem van Loon presents a summary of Ancient and Medieval Civilizations. Professor Howard Lee McBain of Columbia University presents an essay on Law and Government. Dr. James Harvey Robinson offers a profound analysis of Religion. Professor John Dewey of Columbia University discusses Philosophy. Carl Van Doren gives a summary of Literature. Other writers of equal merit from England, Canada and Germany discuss other phases of our complicated modern life. It is a book which one wishes to read and reread carefully and thoughtfully with a notebook at hand to jot down the startling summaries and pronouncements in order to talk them over with friends by the fireside and at the dinner table afterwards.

A. C. F.

Elizabeth and Essex: A Tragic History. By Lytton Strachey. (Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York, 1928. Pp. 296. $3.75.)

Those persons who were so fortunate as to read the unique and enticing biography of Queen Victoria by Lytton Strachey have eagerly awaited the appearance of this life of Good Queen Bess. Here is a new type of biography—one based on a careful study of the original sources, written in a charming style, and revealing a capacity to make the subject of the word-picture stand forth as a living personage with all her strong points and weaknesses sketched by a master hand. At the same time the setting of the times is filled in so adroitly that one sees the Virgin Queen playing her part in a world of actuality instead of dreamland. Here is depicted in choice words a lonely, halting, passionate woman guided by an able intellect and influenced by a strong love of power. This regal figure with black eyes, hair died red, gorgeous gowns, and blazing jewelry, parading about in hoops and ruffles, will not soon be forgotten. With a master's hand she uses men of

all factions not only to meet her whims but to solve the gigantic domestic and foreign problems of her day. Along with her stalk into the picture the attractive lover Essex, the hunchbacked Cecil, the gay and able Sir Walter Raleigh, Francis Bacon of giant intellect, the wise Burghley, and a host of other men and women of the day. In matchless prose the story of Elizabeth's love and rule is told and another classic has been added to our literature. It forms a fitting introduction to the colonization of America by the Old World. In this sense the story of Elizabeth belongs to our own history.

A. C. F.

The Foundations of the Constitution. By DAVID HUTCHINSON. (The Grafton Press, New York, 1928. Pp. 406.)

Professor Hutchinson of the State College for Teachers at Albany does not seek in this volume to interpret the Constitution but to trace the historical background of English, colonial, and state conditions out of which it was evolved. Congress, the Presidency, the Judiciary, and the Nineteen Amendments are taken up in separate chapters and traced through their historical evolution. The result is an informing book which deserves wide use. With the valuable notes and references at the end of each chapter, the text constitutes an encyclopedia of information. Students of American Government will find this book of special value and will be aided to a better understanding of the origin and growth of the fundamental law of the nation. Nothing else exactly like it has been prepared. New York's contribution to the creation of the Constitution is given full credit, and the influence of men like Alexander Hamilton, Gouverneur Morris, and others is clearly indicated. The author is to be congratulated upon the scholarly character and usefulness of the work.

Mexico and Texas, 1821–1835: University of Texas research lectures on the Causes of the Texas Revolution. By EUGENE C. BOLTON. (P. L. Turner Co., Dallas, Texas, 1928. Pp. 167. $2.50.)

This well-written work on a critical period of the history of Texas is more than local history. The author is one of the fore-

most scholars in the particular field with which he is dealing and sees clearly the broader aspects of the subject. The expansion of the United States after 1820 has unfortunately, so thinks the author, been "commonly interpreted by its own political orators, reformers and historians in terms of the slavery controversy, which overshadowed all other national problems from the conclusion of the Missouri Compromise to the beginning of the Civil War." Viewing the revolution neither as the result of deliberate oppressive tyranny and of an uprising of freemen against the tyrants nor as a deep-laid American landgrabbing scheme, Professor Barker sees the settlement of Texas as "a phase of the westward movement which had already carried the frontier from Atlantic tide-water across the Mississippi and was soon to carry it to the Pacific." Texas once settled, the revolution was the inevitable result of the racial inheritances of the two peoples thus brought into political union with one another.

P. N.

Columbus. By MARIUS ANDRE; trans. from the French by ELOISE PARKHURST HUGUENIN. (A. A. Knopf, New York, 1928. Pp. 288. $5.00.)

This is one of the modern interpretative type of biography. It makes interesting reading but is far from convincing, being another effort to knock one of the world heroes off his pedestal. The writer would have us believe that Columbus was an unscrupulous charlatan and inspired poetic dreamer. Yet many will read this book with gain because of a certain human note absent from the more formal and truer biographies.

Theodore Roosevelt's Diaries of Boyhood and Youth. Illustrated from photographs and facsimiles of the author's drawing and letters. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1928. Pp. 365. $2.50.)

We have of late years come to know Theodore Roosevelt from many different angles, as the politician, the statesman, the explorer, the scientist, the father, and others; but in this unique volume we have the rare privilege of becoming acquainted with this genius of versatility from an entirely new approach, through

his own account of the period of his boyhood and youth. These remarkable journals are taken mainly from his diary begun when the future governor of New York was but ten years of age and, with the exception of a few pages written during the Spanish American War and certain sporting and hunting notes jotted down during the years 1901 and 1905, relate entirely to the period of his growth from nursery days to early manhood.

The charm of the book lies in naïveté of style, the characteristic exuberance and joy of living, and the deliciously reverential boyish comments, with the unintentional humor and entirely original spelling. The method of recounting his childish exploits, the description of his early hunting and camping trips, and the record of his progress in athletics and studies while an undergraduate at Harvard are so intimate and revealing of the true Roosevelt that when you lay down the book you feel that you have acquired a deeper and more personal knowledge of the man to whom the people of this State owe so much. Yet throughout there runs the story of the long tedious struggle with physical weakness which was conquered only by downright will power. The debt of New York State to Theodore Roosevelt is indeed great and we should deem it a privilege to be able to become more closely acquainted with him.

The editor of this work has concealed his identity, but we are informed in his preface that, "Mrs. Douglas Robinson, 'Conie,' has read these diaries in proof and has supplied information regarding a number of the persons mentioned." "Conie," Theodore's sister, is one of the central figures in the book and it is interesting to note that she has read and augmented the proof.

H. M. Flick

Masks in a Pageant. By William Allen White. (The Macmillan Co., New York City, 1928. Pp. 507. Illustrated. Price $5.00.)

In the case of this book one could change the truism "Do not judge a book by its cover" to "Do not judge a book by its title," for it is next to impossible to guess what this book is about from its name. Let me assure you that it is one of the most interesting and absorbing books that has been published in a long time about the lives of some of our public men. In addition to others,

Mr. White writes of eight presidents, all of whom he knew personally, Grover Cleveland least, Theodore Roosevelt best, as he puts it. In a rather poetic introduction the author explains his title this way: "As I think back and through my forty working years, counting these work-beads of memory, they fall into many kinds of linked successions. One is politics. There, as in all the other forms of passing business and diversion down the long line, faces appear, dim or vivid, dull or significant—which recall the day's work. By a twist of fancy these beads of memory become masks in a pageant—a merry procession of men marching across my consciousness..." Mr. White was mentioned prominently in the public press during the summer of 1928, when he and Hon. Alfred E. Smith, Democratic nominee for United States President, engaged in a newspaper controversy. The author is a newspaper man and he certainly knows his reading public. So much so that there isn't a dry page in his book. His arrangement of biographies is unusual; he parallels them to the British evolution of government. Part one he calls "The Old Kings" and these are Croker and Platt; part two is called "The Early Stuarts" and here he mentions Harrison, Grover Cleveland and McKinley; part three is named "Two Warwicks," in which Mark Hanna and Bryan appear under this head; part four "The Great Rebellion" contains biographies of Theodore Roosevelt, Taft and Woodrow Wilson; part five is "The Restoration," in which Harding and Coolidge appear; the last is part six and is called "The Young Princes of Democracy," in this division accounts of Alfred Emanuel Smith and William Hale Thompson are printed. It has seemed to the reviewer that the author has been fair in every way to the men about whom he has written, and wherever possible he has attributed charitable motives to the men who pass before him in pageant, even in cases where these men received public censure. The book was written before the national election of November, 1928, and in his chapter on Hon. Alfred E. Smith he says "And, possibly, from now on in American politics, as our urban population grows to overbalance the rural population, back alley statesmen may crowd the backwoods statesmen into second place ...Al Smith may be only the herald of the new order; or he may be its first champion."

Irving S. Adler

Blackman and Allied Families. Compiled by ALFRED L. HOLMAN in collaboration with NATHAN LINCOLN BLACKMAN. (Privately printed, Chicago, Ill., 1928. Pp. 258.)

Most persons have to pass the age of fifty before they become deeply interested in their family history. After that age genealogical research becomes tremendously absorbing. The widespread interest in the compilation of family trees in America at the present time is proof of the growth of the historic spirit. In hundreds of instances this hobby has led to an intelligent interest in the past and has induced the devotees to affiliate with local, state and national historical societies. This volume is a model of its kind. In tracing out the various lines of the Blackman family more than sixty related families have been noticed. An excellent chart summarizes the work, and a complete index concludes the family. The research reaches back to John Blackman of Dorchester, England, in 1640.

Middletown, a Biography. By FRANKLIN B. WILLIAMS. (Published by Lawrence A. Toepp, Middletown, N. Y. Pp. 201.)

The author tells us that this is the first systematic attempt to relate the history of Middletown, N. Y., in a comprehensive manner. For a pioneer task he has made a valuable contribution. The fourteen chapters sketch the story from 1609 down to the present time. The first chapter brings the narrative to the year 1815 and in many ways is the most interesting because it is the period of beginnings. Then follows a description of the growth of the hamlet, village and city to the year 1928. One chapter is devoted to things military, and another to "Schools, Lyceum, Libraries, Hospitals." Church and cemeteries receive full treatment. A chapter is devoted to "Personalities" and another to "Organizations." Maps and the pictures of pioneers add to the interest and attractiveness of the volume. An excellent index is included. This volume will serve a useful purpose and should be widely purchased by the people of Middletown and the surrounding country. Its value will increase as the years pass by. Middletown is to be congratulated upon having a citizen-historian who has taken the trouble to compile this work.

Boston, a novel. By Upton Sinclair. (Albert & Charles Boni, New York, 1928. 2 vols. Pp. 755. $5.00.)

Since the press of New York took the initiative in exploiting the Sacco-Vanzetti case, there was perhaps more feeling over it in this State than in any other. This volume instead of dealing with the life of Boston makes that famous case the thread of the story. Incidentally Boston "Blue-bloods," police captains, college presidents, bankers, poets, judges and governors bob up in the book along with Italian anarchists and their sympathizers. It is an absorbing story and purports to set forth the whole trial from the documents not as a partisan defense but as history. As to that every reader must judge for himself. It is sufficient to say that it is an absorbing novel full of action, bomb-plots, intrigue, blackmail, and tragedy.

The Utah Expedition, 1857–1858. Letters of Capt. Jesse A. Grove of Concord, N. H., to Mrs. Grove and Special Correspondence of the New York Herald. Ed. by Otis G. Hammond. (Published as Vol. 12 of the New Hampshire Historical Society Collections, Concord, N. H., 1928. Pp. 442.)

These letters printed without notes or much editorial comment tell a thrilling story of the frontier just before the outbreak of the Civil War. Those written to Mrs. Grove were not intended for publication, of course, and hence are the more interesting and valuable as historical sources. They cover about 200 pages. At the same time while these familiar family letters were being sent eastward from the frontier, Capt. Grove under the signature of "Argus" sent a number of communications to the *New York Herald.* It seems that a regular reporter of the *Herald* was in the camp and also forwarded despatches to the paper. Among the officers referred to were the following New Yorkers: Lieut. Clarence E. Bennett, Lieut. Franklin Gardner, Lieut. Col. William Hoffman, Lieut. William Kearny, Lieut. Henry B. Livingston, Lieut. Elisha G. Marshall, Maj. Sur. Madison Mills, Capt. David A. Russell, Lieut. Peter B. Swaine, Lieut. Grier Tallmadge, Capt. Albert Tracy, Capt. Stewart Van Vliet, and Capt. Carlos A. Waite. The volume is well indexed. Maps and illustrations add to its value.

The New Day in Housing. By Louis H. Pink, with an Introduction by Governor Alfred E. Smith. (The John Day Company, New York, 1928. Pp. 208. $3.50.)

This is a book in the social history of New York. The author is a member of the New York State Housing Board and has had wide experience in social settlement and educational work in and about Greater New York. He has made a comparative study and writes chapters on housing conditions in Chicago, Philadelphia and Cincinnati, and in Belgium, Holland and Germany. Garden cities at home and abroad are contrasted and discussed. Considerable attention is given to the Heckscher Plan, the Rockefeller Projects, and Cooperative Housing. The present tenements of New York City are described and the laws controlling them explained. Altogether the treatise is a splendid exposition of one of the greatest of human problems in our congested centers of population. It should be read by men and women who wish to see the human race made comfortable and happy. The task must be met and the slum must be made an impossibility in modern civilization. Only an enlightened public opinion will solve the problem.

The New York Red Book. Edited by James Malcom. (J. B. Lyon Co., Albany, 1928. Pp. 622.)

This illustrated State manual has come to be an indispensable reference volume for persons who wish information about the government of the State of New York. This edition differs from its predecessors in including much new material. It gives statistics of party enrollment in the 62 counties from 1920 to 1926 together with the presidential vote. It includes the votes for Governor from 1918 to 1926 in counties and cities. These figures are valuable in showing relative party strength in various parts of the State. The electoral vote for President since 1856 in the various states. All candidates for Governor since 1777 for minor as well as major political parties are named. A special section is devoted to the State Library and to the State Museum. The names of the Roosevelt gold medal winners are given, and "modern and ancient wonders of the world" are included. For historical and genealogical purposes the Red Book will increase in value with the passing of time.

Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Department of Education for the School Year Ending July 31, 1927. Volume I. (The University of the State of New York, 1928. Pp. 322.)

This volume gives a survey of the activities in education, buildings, libraries, the State Museum, motion pictures, the various professions, and in history and archives. The report of the State Librarian, Dr. James I. Wyer, includes an interesting account of the pamphlet collections recently acquired by the State Library. Among the gifts are World War Posters from Benjamin Walworth Arnold, 130 Harmanus Bleecker letters from Gen. Amasa J. Parker, and the Dike Account Book, 1780–1840. The report of the Archives and History Division covers pages 263–271.

Bulletin to the Schools. Volume 14, 1927–28. (The University of the State of New York, Albany, 1928. Pp. 269.)

This volume contains an obituary of Dr. Frank B. Gilbert who was a trustee of the New York State Historical Association; numerous items of current educational history; and a series of articles on local history prepared by Dr. Richard E. Day of the Division of History and Archives. A comprehensive index makes the volume valuable as a reference work.

The Feu de Joye, Valley Forge, May 6, 1778. By John Baer Stoudt. (The Morristown Press, 1928. Pp. 30.)

Dr. Stoudt has assembled in this booklet the original sources which relate to the celebration of the Alliance between France and the United States of America. The material was printed in connection with the Valley Forge Sesquicentennial on May 5, 1928. The sources include a letter from Washington, the "General orders," the contemporary descriptions in the newspapers, comments by officers, and a note on Cato which was played at Valley Forge, May 11, 1778.

So many of the early inhabitants of New Netherland and New York settled in Piscataway, N. J., that their descendants and others in this State will be interested to know that Mr. Orra Eugene Monnette, the well-known genealogist, of Los Angeles, Cal., is preparing a book on *First Settlers of Piscataway and Woodbridge, New Jersey.* It will appear this month.

Syllabus for Elementary Schools: Geography for the 5th and 6th grades of the public schools has been printed by the University of the State of New York. It is interesting to note how much of current local history and geography is included.

French Influence in America is the title of a thoughtful work by Howard Mumford Jones of the University of North Carolina. Since New York was in part under French influence for so long a time this book will be read with interest by members of our Association.

Minutes of the 46th Annual Meeting of the Synod of New York, Oct. 15, 1928, gives a full account of the activities of the Presbyterian Church in New York during the year 1827–28.

The John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Boston, Mass., deserves the thanks of all friends of history for the well written and well-illustrated series of booklets on eminent men and monuments connected with American History. About 50,000,000 copies have been printed. The series include Lafayette, Roosevelt, Robert E. Lee, David Crockett, Clark, Washington, Stonewall Jackson, John Hancock and Lincoln.

It will be gratifying to know that John Albert Scott, author of *Fort Stanwix and Oriskany*, which was so enthusiastically received, has prepared an excellent index for the edition of the book now on sale. It may be secured from Mr. Scott by purchasers of the original book.

The *Eighteenth Annual Report* of the New York State Waterways Association contains the proceedings of the convention held at Oswego, November 11 and 12, 1927, including reports, addresses, some historical matter, and a modicum of grist for the future historian of New York's waterways.

Miss Grace G. Griffin's *Writings on American History* for 1924 (pp. xxiii, 292) deserves, for its thoroughness and careful preparation, the recognition that has frequently been given in these pages, of the value of this annual bibliography. The present volume, embracing 3428 items, follows the same excellent plan of the preceding issues.

The Clinton Papers of the William L. Clements Library consist of some 35,000 documents and 350 manuscript maps. The Library also possesses the papers of Lord Germain of which less than one-half have been printed. The Library has now published *Brief Descriptions* of these treasures.

Two stately volumes of the Roxburghe Club (distributed to members only) are devoted to *A Selection from the Papers of George III., November 1, 1781, to December 20, 1783,* edited by Sir John W. Fortescue, and containing 1057 letters and documents.

Letter Book of Peleg Sanford of Newport (R. I.), 1666–1668 is the title of a book printed by the Rhode Island Historical Society. The letters deal largely with commercial matters.

Jefferson County Historical Society gives an outline of the object, work, condition and need of that growing organization with its home located at Watertown, N. Y.

The *Fifth Biennial Report* of the Historical Department of the State of Wyoming, Mrs. Cyrus Beard, State Historian, for the year ending Nov. 20, 1928, shows quite an unusual activity in building up on Historical Museum and an Historical Library. Accessions to both institutions have been numerous and important. It is particularly surprising to see the list of manuscripts dealing with early life in Wyoming which have been obtained by gift.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

PERSONALS

The present Governor of New York State, Franklin D. Roosevelt, will undoubtedly take rank with DeWitt Clinton, William H. Seward, Horatio Seymour and Theodore Roosevelt for his intelligent interest in the preservation of the history of this commonwealth. In the first place he has the ancestral background which brings a sincere appreciation of our splendid past. In the second place he has the appreciation of the scholar and historical student of the value of historical knowledge in working out correct solutions of our present problems. He appreciates the educational usefulness of historical museums, of historical societies, of historical markers and monuments, of the preservation of historic buildings and sites, of the safeguarding of local and state records, and of the writing of history. Governor Roosevelt has served as Local Historian of Hyde Park ever since the office was created in 1900. He has also been closely identified with the Dutchess County Historical Society and has supported the excellent work that organization has accomplished. A few years ago when official documents of the State of New York were offered for public auction in Philadelphia, with his own means he bought them and saved them for his native State. And in many other ways he has shown a scholarly concern for the salvaging of the history of the Empire State. We may feel assured that sensible and constructive projects of an historical character which are important enough to be brought to his attention will receive a sympathetic hearing. The next two years should be an important landmark in the historical accomplishment of the Empire State.

William Milligan Sloane died on September 12 after a long illness. As he had a deep interest in the American Historical Association, served as an editor of the *Review* and as president of the Association, he was well known to all the older members, who grieve for the loss of a friend. He was born in 1850; from 1873–1875 he was secretary to George Bancroft in Berlin; he was professor in Princeton for 20 years and in Columbia for an equal period, until his retirement in 1916. He was the author of many works of which the best known is *Napoleon Bonaparte*, in four

volumes, published in 1901, revised edition in 1911. He was continually writing and his friends referred to his "five-foot shelf" of works; the last, *Greater France in Morocco*, was published in 1924. He was president of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and was the recipient of decorations from the French and Swedish governments.

The friends of Col. John W. Vrooman will be pleased to know that although he was indisposed in the fall and forced to seek rest from his multitudinous activities at Atlantic City, the latest report is that he is in fair health. The many causes to which he has so generously devoted thought and energy will again profit by his able leadership and wise counsel.

At its meeting in November, 1928, the Board of Regents and President Frank P. Graves passed appropriate resolutions on the death of Hon. Robert Lansing who died Oct. 30, 1928, and Dr. Charles Francis Wheelock, who died on Nov. 4, 1928. Both of these eminent New Yorkers were deeply interested in the history of the Empire State and seized every opportunity to add to its renown.

Dr. Frederick W. Putnam of Binghamton has been an indefatigable collector of historical items. His collection numbers many volumes. The material is topically arranged by years and will be of great service for historical study in years to come. Dr. Putnam has had in mind the donation of his collection to some central library where his materials would be of the greatest use in the future.

One of our new members, Mr. J. Wray Cleveland, vice-president of the Guarantee and Trust Co. of New York City, would be glad to receive information about his great grandmother, Mary Hoskins, who married William Cleveland in Milton, Saratoga Co., N. Y., September 24, 1794. Mr. Cleveland is governor of the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of New York, and treasurer of the Sons of the Revolution.

New York's Oldest Woman

New York's grand old lady, Mrs. Delina "Grandma" Filkins, passed away at the home of her grandson Berton Filkins at Richfield Springs Tuesday morning, December 4, 1928, after having lived more than 113 years, all of which was spent in Herkimer county with the exception of the past two months during which time she had resided with the grandson at whose home she died.

Her demise was due to the infirmities of age, she having been indisposed for sometime past, altho refusing to take to her bed until three days before her death. She continued to sit in her rocking chair beside the fire until forced to lie down.

"Grandma" Filkins enjoyed the distinction of being the Empire state's oldest woman if not the oldest in the entire nation. She bore her 113 summers upon her vigorously until a short time ago when she began to feel less strong than usual and altho she never complained of illness, her family could see that she was at last nearing the end of her earthly journey.

Delina Ecker Filkins was born May 4, 1815, in the town of Stark, Herkimer County, and spent all her life until about two months ago, within a radius of ten miles. Her father, William Ecker, lived to reach the age of 97 before he died, while her mother was 78. Her ancestors were of the staunch old Mohawk Dutch colonial stock, early settlers in the town of Stark, hardy pioneers who with their bare hands wrested from the virgin forest a home, then farm acreage, and finally a tiny frontier settlement on the upper reaches of the Otsquago creek.

"Grandma" Filkins left school at the age of 11 and went to work at home spinning flax raised on the Stark hillsides. This, when it had been transformed into homespun yarn, was woven into the durable clothing worn by the pioneers.

John Filkins when he was 19 years of age made her his wife. John was the son of a neighboring farmer and took his bride to the "old place in Stark," as she has since frequently referred to it, where she resided for 39 years. On her wedding day in 1834 she planted a rose bush in the yard of her home and this bush still blossoms every June. It was always "Grandma's" delight to pluck therefrom a beautiful rose each year, reminding her of the wonderful days she and her young husband spent together on the old farm these many years ago.

Six children were born of the union, two of whom are still living. They are Frank, who resides near Jordanville, 72 years of age, and Alonzo, 86, of Richfield Springs. The oldest of the six children had he lived would have been 92. That was Joseph who died in infancy.

Grandma Filkins truly grew up with the nation. She was two years old when the Erie canal was begun. She was ten years old when it was opened.

She saw the first train pass over the Schenectady and Utica R. R. in 1831.

She was 12 years old when New York passed the free slave law. She remembered presidents as far back as Andrew Jackson, the same Jackson who stopped the British at New Orleans the very year in which she was born. Napoleon also met his Waterloo June 18, 1815, a month and a half after the birth of Grandma Filkins.

Canals, railways, automobiles, airplanes all came into being during the span of this one lifetime and it is good to know that while handicapped by deafness she nevertheless enjoyed the latest invention, the radio which was her companion in the evening of her life. It is a wide span from the flax wheel and hetchel to the radio and airplane.

She had her first auto ride at the age of 100 and frequently made use of this mode of conveyance going at least once a year to Van Hornesville.

She had become a nation wide figure and was proud in the possession of birthday greetings from President Harding, President Coolidge and Governor Smith. Her passing will be noted by a wide circle as her anniversaries were becoming a matter of wide interest.

She passes to her long rest and well deserves it. Such a long life of kindly devotion to the immediate tasks of life, happy and uncomplaining deserves the highest reward.

The funeral was held from the Richfield Springs home at 1 o'clock Thursday, December 6, 1928, and from the M. E. Church in Jordanville at 2:00 o'clock. Interment was made in Jordanville.

(St. Johnsville *Enterprise and News*, December 5, 1928).

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND CLUBS

Members of the New York State Historical Association:

The Headquarters Building given and endowed by our fellow-member, Horace A. Moses, has now been open to the public a little over two years. About twenty-four thousand people have visited it and admired the beautiful Colonial house and the fine reproductions of eighteenth century furniture.

Among the visitors is an increasing number of boys and girls from rural schools and summer camps. Many of them are remote from larger museums and this place is an opportunity to make history more real. At Fort Ticonderoga is a fine collection of French and Indian and Revolutionary relics, but we are not limited to any period in the history of New York State.

Gifts to the library and museum have not been coming in as we would wish they might. We have this beautiful building, and yet the friends of the Association have not done their share toward building up the collections. I bring this to your attention now hoping that you will help. Possibly you have some object of historic interest that you would be willing to give; if not, you may have a friend who would add something. Books, manuscripts, maps, pictures, relics of the various wars, household utensils and implements, articles of dress, etc., would all be a great addition to the building, provided they are approved by the Committee on Gifts.

In case you or a friend wish to make a gift, will you not communicate with me and I will refer the offer to the proper committee of the trustees.

Faithfully yours
JULIA F. WICKER
December, 1928. Director Headquarters Building

Plans are being formed for the organization of a Greene County Historical Society. County Historian Mrs. Jessie V. V. Vedder is taking active direction of the movement.

The Abigail Harper Chapter, D. A. R., of Stamford, N. Y., as reported in the *Mirror*, December 27, 1928, heard a noteworthy paper on "Revolutionary Days in the State" by Celia Van Ness Shaw of Binghamton.

The Dutch Settlers Society of Albany on Dec. 4, 1928, observed the festival of St. Nicholas at the First Reformed Church. *The Year Book* of this active organization was distributed to members.

The Daughters of Columbia County Historical Society was granted a charter by the University of the State of New York on September 27, 1928. This is a separate incorporation of what was formerly the Albany branch of the Daughters of Columbia County, now the Columbia County Historical Society. The society proposes to hold nine meetings with historical programs during the year. The annual meeting was held January 7, 1929, when the following officers were elected: Pres., Mrs. Henry W. Polgreen; 1st vice-pres., Mrs. S. Charles Hallenbeck; 2d vice-pres., Miss Julia Rider; 3d vice-pres., Mrs. James M. Gillette; 4th vice-pres., Mrs. Bradley Nichols; rec. sec., Mrs. G. Norman Wark; corr. sec., Miss Sarah Masten; fin. sec., Mrs. F. M. J. Wood; treas., Miss Edith M. Van Hoesen; chaplain, Miss Catherine A. Mead; historian, Mrs. Charlotte T. Luckhurst. The members of the board are: Mrs. Wessel TenBroeck VanOrden, Mrs. Douglas Shaw Whitbeck, Mrs. K. D. Camp, Mrs. Ten Eyck T. Mosher, Mrs. George G. Whitbeck and Mrs. Frank N. Becker.

The Herkimer County Historical Society at a meeting October 27, 1928, took steps to occupy the new home recently donated by Mr. Suiter. Col. John W. Vrooman presided at the meeting.

The Huguenot and Historical Association of New Rochelle, N. Y., on November 8, 1928, listened to an address on "The Huguenot Settlements in America" by Rev. Dr. William Prall.

The Owasco Chapter, D. A. R., at Auburn is planning to participate in the Sulllivan Sesquicentennial this year.

Dr. Dixon Ryan Fox described "A Pilgrimage to Scarsdale, England" before the Westchester County Historical Society on November 13, 1928.

Mr. William Abbatt gave his well-known and instructive illustrated lecture on "The Crisis of the Revolution" before the Rochester Historical Society on November 9, 1928.

The Minnesota Historical Society is working out a plan for financing local history work in that State.

The New England Society of the City of New York on November 25, 1928, held a Thanksgiving Service in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine at which Dr. J. V. Moldenhawer preached the sermon.

The Association of History Teachers of the Middle States and Maryland met in Atlantic City, N. J., December 1, 1928.

The Kings County Historical Society on November 27, 1928, listened to an address on "Captain Miles Standish" by Dr. Thomas E. Potterton.

The Rochester Historical Society presented in the Little Theater of the Memorial Art Gallery on December 3, 1928, an address by Rev. Arthur A. Hughes on "My Trip to Australia." On January 5, 1929, the Society heard Prof. Henry W. Elson on "American Political Parties."

The Rensselaer County Historical Society held its first annual meeting on December 6, 1928, at which officers were elected and an address was given by the State Historian.

The Westchester County Historical Society met at Bronxville, October 29, 1928, to hear an address on "Old Westchester" by Dr. John E. Virden. Major George Haven Putnam was the guest of honor.

The Johnstown Historical Society held its annual dinner at Hotel Johnstown, October 25, 1928, and devoted the evening to exercises commemorating the 147th anniversary of the Battle of Johnstown. Judge Fred Linus Carroll presided and the subject "New York's Place in American History" was discussed by State Historian Flick.

On October 25, 1928, the Montgomery County Historical Society dedicated the Samuel Ludlow Frey Memorial given to the Society by Bartlett Arkell of Canajoharie. William Pierrepont White delivered the dedicatory address on "A History of the Frey Family."

The American Geographical Society of New York is making a drive for new members to support its worthy work. The fellows as well as regular members are being increased.

At the meeting of the American Historical Association at Indianapolis during the holidays, Prof. Milledge L. Bonham of Hamilton College presented a paper on "The Religious Side of Joseph Brant," Prof. Dixon Ryan Fox delivered the address at the annual dinner on "The Disposal of Refuse Ideas;" and Prof. Harry Carman made a report of the status of the Association's drive for an endowment.

The 223rd birthday of Benjamin Franklin was observed in New York on January 17, 1929, by the Sons of the Revolution, the Banjamin Franklin Society, various printers and newspaper organizations and the University of Pennsylvania Club.

The annual financial report of the American Historical Association for 1928 shows that the receipts were $31,425, and expenditures $25,545. The Endowment Fund approximates $250,000. The Association selected Durham, N. C., as the place of meeting for 1929. Dr. James Harvey Robinson is the new president.

PUBLICATIONS, ARTICLES, MANUSCRIPTS

A paper on Rev. George Okill Stuart, second rector of York and of Kingston, Canada, contributed to the Ontario Historical Society's *Papers and Records* by Professor A. H. Young, of Trinity College, Toronto, is reprinted in pamphlet form. George Okill Stuart was the eldest son of Rev. John Stuart, the last missionary to the Mohawk Indians, at Fort Hunter, also officiating at Johnstown.

In the first section of the *New York Times* of Sunday, November 25, 1928, there appears an article called "Says Nation Forgot Its First President." Seymour Wemyss Smith, editor of the *Financial Digest*, asserts that John Hanson should have the honor accorded Washington. Mr. Smith maintains that John Hanson preceded Washington by eight years and that he has been overlooked in history's rush. "John Hanson," Mr. Smith explains, "was the first President under the original Constitution (the Articles of Confederation) and was elected in November, 1781. George Washington was the first President under what was known in his day as the 'new Constitution'. He was inaugurated in 1789, seven years after the close of Hanson's administration." Mr.

Smith plans to carry his fight to the floor of the United States Senate. He also states that Mr. Hanson's name does not appear in either the Americana or Britannica. Mr. Smith obtained his information through long research in the files of the Congressional Library and through the aid of the Maryland Historical Society.

In the Titusville (Pennsylvania) *Herald*, April 6, 1927, H. A. Johnson of Meadville, Pa., writes a letter which contends that ancient oil vats or pits—perhaps 2000 altogether in the vicinity of Titusville, were used by the Indians before the advent of the whites for obtaining "Seneca Oil." The writer states that they were not built by the Indians and may go back to the mound builders. The whole problem should challenge the investigation of archeologists.

The New York Central R. R. has published a calendar for 1929 which is devoted to the Mohawk Valley.

The Watertown *Daily Times*, September 29, 1928, printed a number of excellent historical articles on the personages and movements of Northern New York from the pens of local writers.

The *Boston Transcript* has for years conducted a weekly Genealogical Department which is surprisingly popular and to which our readers will be glad to have their attention called.

A monograph of 126 pages on *The Mining and Quarry Industries of New York for 1925 and 1926* by D. H. Newland and C. A. Hartnagel of the State Museum gives a valuable phase of recent industrial history.

The Public Papers of George Clinton published by the State in 10 volumes are now priced in second hand catalogues at $10.

The *Edison Monthly* for November, 1928, in an article on "Fifty Years" makes a survey of what has happened in the electrical field during the past half century.

News of 1930 is the title of a news sheet published by the Massachusetts Tercentenary Committee of Boston. It is devoted to plans for the observance of the 300th anniversary of the founding of Old Bay State.

The *American Academy of Political and Social Science* has devoted a recent issue to the American Negro. Many scholars collaborated in this study which has been published in a cloth-bound volume which sells for $2.50.

The *Palimpsest* for November, 1928, contains an article by Pauline Grahame on "At Harper's Ferry" famous in the well-known tragedy of John Brown. The article is supplemented by an editorial comment.

The city of Rome, N. Y., has issued a leaflet called "Colonial and Revolutionary Rome" which is being distributed to visitors by the Rome Chamber of Commerce. With maps, explanations and directions it is intended to aid the sightseer to visit all the places of interest in and about Rome.

Mrs. Annie Olmsted Peet of Utica, N. Y., has issued three pictorial maps—"A Map Depicting Rochester and the Genesee Country;" "A Map Depicting Utica and Environs about 1800;" and "Historic Background of Canajoharie." These maps are proving to be very popular because they aid one in visualizing the history and romance of a given region.

The *D. A. R. Magazine* for November, 1928, prints "Abstracts of the First Book of Erie Co., Pa., Wills" which will be of much service to persons doing work in family history.

The *Journal of the Society of Army Historical Research* for October, 1928, contains valuable notes on the Fortress of Quebec; the 33rd Foot which served during the American Revolution; the capture of the colors of the Delaware Militia; a proposed history of the Black Watch; and the use of "Bat Men" and "Baw Horses" in the British army. This journal should be more widely patronized in America for each number contains many papers, sources, and notes of interest to students of colonial and Revolutionary American history.

The *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* has become one of the most valuable journals of its kind in existence. It is ably edited and each issue is full of valuable documents and information. The number for January, 1929, describes the laying of the corner-stone of the Society's new home; gives the ancestry of

Thomas Willett, first Mayor of New York City; the Schaghticoke Dutch Reformed Church Records; Gravestone Inscriptions of the Brick Presbyterian Church, New York City; the Barton Genealogy; the Federal Census of Tioga Co., N. Y., for 1800; Sales of Loyalist estates in the Southern District of New York; and Records of the Dutch Reformed Church in New York City.

The *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Quarterly* for July, 1928, is devoted to a monograph on "Party Politics in Ohio, 1840–1850" by Dr. Edgar Allen Holt.

Schohanna Trail is the title of a folder issued by the Schohanna Trail Association giving a map and illustrations showing the historical attractions along Route 7.

The Watertown (N. Y.) *Standard* for August 24, 1928, printed an article on "History of Lake Villages" in which the traditions clustering about Sackett Harbor are gathered together in a connected story.

The history of the Fox, Hess and Klock families in the Mohawk Valley is continued in the St. Johnsville (N. Y.) *Enterprise and News* for October 24, 1928, and succeeding issues.

The *National Republic* for November, 1928, contains a sketchy article on "Our Hamilton is No More" by Fairfax Braxton in which the Burr-Hamilton duel is described. In the January issue was an illustrated article on "Our First Inauguration" by Quaker O'Taylor.

The weekly bulletin of the *Chamber of Commerce* of Rochester, N. Y., prints a digest of an address by City Historian Edward R. Foreman in which he outlined the Sullivan Expedition and explained the plans for the Sesquicentennial this summer and fall.

The active little journal at Cherry Valley called the *Archive* for October 23, 1928, prints an interesting account of "Col. Samuel Campbell, One of Tryon County's Great Patriots," and other items of historic interest. The issue for November 15 deals with the Massacre and Col. Ichabod Alden.

A Circular of Information on the State Museum describes the start made in exhibiting historical objects. Recently exhibits of

the Spanish-American War, Admiral Sigsbee, and the Shakers have been opened to the public.

The *Ontario County Times* for August 18, 1928, prints an article on Squaw Island near Canandaigua which is now a part of the State Park System and administered by the Finger Lakes Park Commission.

The *Geographical Review* for January, 1929, presents an account of "Peary's Marches on His North Pole Expedition, 1909" by Gunnar Isachsen, and "Amundsen: Supreme Adventurer" by Dr. John H. Finley.

Mr. Jacques W. Redway of Mount Vernon, N. Y., has prepared a history of "Health and Its Protection in Mount Vernon."

In the *Minute Man* for January, H. K. Devereux tells of the creation of the picture "The Spirit of '76."

The Ogdensburg (N. Y.) *Republican-Journal* for October 5, 1928, printed an interesting article on Father Picquet and his activities from the gifted pen of Monsignor P. S. Garand, City Historian.

The *Journal of Economic and Business History* appeared November, 1928. In this first issue is an article on "Thomas Hancock, Colonial Merchant" by Edward Edelman.

The Johnstown Historical Society has issued for free distribution to visitors a leaflet guide to places of historical interest.

See Albany is the title of a booklet printed by the Albany Hotel Association to supply visitors with guidance in seeing the places of interest in the capital of the State.

Victor Hugo Paltsits of the New York Public Library writes an informing article on "The Petworth Manuscript of 'Grace Dieu' on 'The Pilgrimage of the Soul' " in the *Bulletin* for November, 1928.

The Legend of Red Wing by Retta Whiting Sutton has been printed in pamphlet form to popularize Stony Brook State Park.

The *Bulletin* of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum for January, 1929, sustains its valuable character. It contains Gen. Henry Dearborn's "Narrative of the Saratoga Campaign;" Rev. Wheeler Case's poem on "St. Clair's Retreat and Burgoyne's Defeat;" "Benjamin Warren's Knapsack;" a soldier's letter of 1758; a "Bibliography of Pamphlets and Articles by Ethan Allen, 1737–1789;" and a number of valuable illustrations among which is a picture of Isaac Rice.

The Elmira (N. Y.) *Star-Gazette* printed, December 29, 1928, a Centennial Edition which is an admirable summary of this newspaper during a service of 100 years.

The Fort Plain (N. Y.) *Standard* for November 8, 1928, contained an appreciative obituary of Dr. Charles F. Wheelock; for November 15, 1928, articles on "Colonel Willett" and "Cherry Valley Massacre;" and for December 27, 1928, a discussion of Troy's "Stuart's Washington."

The *American Historical Review* for January, 1929, has an article on "The Economic Background of the Liberty Party" by Julian P. Bretz which deals with that party's activities in New York.

In the *Canadian Historical Review* for September, 1928, Nellis M. Crouse describes the location of Fort Maurepas.

The *Quarterly Magazine* of the New Jersey Historical Society for October, 1928, contains an article on the Gen. Winfield Scott Mansion at Elizabeth, N. J.; a letter about Ann Roberts, the Indian woman born near Albany, N. Y., about 1804; and poems on the Battle of Monmouth. The *Quarterly* announces the unveiling of a bronze statue of William the Silent on the grounds of Rutgers University, prints a new letter of Gen. Washington written at Newburgh, N. Y., March 26, 1783, and tells of a granite monument to Theodore Roosevelt dedicated at Tenafly, N. J., last July. This volume contains the index for the year.

Minnesota History for December, 1928, contains an excellent review of Fox and Schlesinger's new history, *A History of American Life*, by Dr. Solon J. Buck.

The *Wisconsin Magazine* for December, 1928, prints a "Biographical Sketch of Edmund Jussen" by Marie Jussen Monroe. Jussen fled from Germany after the Revolution of 1848 and landed in New York City. Then he went up the Hudson and through the Erie Canal to Buffalo making his way later to Wisconsin. Carl Schurz was a relative.

The *Junior High School in New York State* prepared by Dr. George M. Wiley and Harrison H. Van Cott of the State Education Department devotes considerable space to a discussion of the teaching of history and to the use of historical fiction.

Dr. Milton Offutt of Princeton University has issued in the Johns Hopkins University Studies as No. 4, Vol. XLVI, a monograph on *The Protection of Citizens Abroad by the Armed Forces of the United States*. The efforts of President Theodore Roosevelt and other New York statesmen are mentioned.

The *Yale Review* for the Winter Quarter 1929 contains a poem on "History" by Eliot Kays Stone:

> An angel took me by my trembling hand,
> And whispered, "Fear not. All this but appears.
> No mortal eye can view the promised land,
> Nor read aright Time's buried yesteryears."
>
> * * * * * * * *
>
> Man has not thumbed one page of history;
> Creation was, and is, and is to be.

In Part IV, Vol. XIII, of *Annual Publications*, Historical Society of Southern California, for 1827, which has just appeared from the press there appears "The Diary of John Brown, 1862." This is a new John Brown who in 1861 built a toll road to the summit of the pass into San Bernardino Valley. The next year he had a ferry over the Colorado River at Fort Mojave. The preceding number was devoted to "Jedediah Strong Smith—Pathfinder," whose Strong ancestors came from the State of New York.

The *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Westchester County Historical Society for October, 1928, contains an article on "Frederick Filipse not of Yonkers" by Edgar Mayhew Bacon; a discussion of "Mile-

stones;" and the "Diary of Obadiah Brown" from June 1 to July 1, 1776.

Burton Historical Collection Leaflet for November, 1928, is devoted to "The Iron Ship," whose history goes back to the War of 1812, in background, although she was not actually launched until 1844.

Museum Service of the Rochester Municipal Museum for December 15, 1928, has a thoughtful editorial on "Museum Organization" which every curator of a museum should read and put into practice.

The Albany *Knickerbocker Press* for December 12, 1928, has an article on "Talleyrand, Exile in the United States, Visited Schuyler Mansion."

The St. Johnsville (N. Y.) *Enterprise and News* for December 12, 1928, continues the life of Col. Jacob Klock and an account of the Van Slyke family.

The Mayflower Publishing Company is planning a new edition of *Who's Who in the East* for 1929.

Bulletin to the Schools for December 1, 1928, resumes the series of articles on "Local History of the State of New York" with an account of a skirmish in Westchester County in 1778.

The following is taken from the *New York Times* of December 2, 1928:

One of the largest and most valuable collections of historical parchment manuscripts in the country has recently been indexed and filed and now is in the New York County Clerk's office in the Hall of Records. They relate to the early history of the city, and were found in an obscure corner of the Court House cellar, generations after they had been abandoned by the British when they evacuated New York in 1783.

The documents represent the transactions of the old Court of Assize (1666–1683), the old Supreme Court of Judicature (1683–1776) and the old Court of Exchequer (1683–1692), and these contain the records of the former Courts of Admiralty and Chancery.

The records are beautifully written on parchment, and are technically known as judgment rolls. Most of them are small rolls, twelve inches or less in length, and more than 20,000 of the total of approximately 23,000 do not exceed one inch in diameter. They are important in their relation to early highways, bridges and public roads, to early titles in all of the then populated parts of the Colony of New York, namely, the counties of Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk on Long Island, the County of Richmond and the Hudson River counties, Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess.

The rolls were left by the British, tied in bundles and thrown together in a miscellaneous and indistinguishable mass.

Early in the present century an official from the office of the Corporation Counsel dug into the mass in the hope of finding something of legal value to use in two lawsuits against the city involving land worth at that time about $6,000,000. After several months of searching he found the evidence he needed, and by producing it was able to win the cases for the city.

This matter brought the documents to the attention of the first Commissioner of Records, the late William S. Andrews, in 1910. He wrote to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, asking for a grant of $7,500 for the purchase of specially designed cases for filing the documents, after they had been cleaned and indexed. The salvage work was well under way two years later, when Mr. Andrews died.

The manuscripts, now in the care of the present Commissioner of Records, A. Welles Stump, are filed together in the Hall of Records, little known except to students.

Miss Clara Apgar, of Ithaca, N. Y., owns Grover Cleveland's letter dated October 7, 1882, accepting the Democratic nomination for Governor.

A Vermont farmer, Dana H. Stafford, is reported to have sold his rare postage stamps for $9000.

The original minutes of the town of Pompey in Onondaga County going back to April 8, 1794, have been found through the indefatigable industry of Local Historian Henry D. Barto. The minutes should be printed.

Gerrit S. Miller of Peterboro has presented to Syracuse University 10,000 letters, pamphlets and newspapers covering the years 1790–1875 which belonged to Gerrit Smith and his father, Peter Smith, a pioneer in Central New York.

On December 10, 1928, a rare collection of autograph letters was sold at Philadelphia from the collection of George W. Childs. Among the letters were some by John Jay, Robert R. Livingston, Chester A. Arthur and Grover Cleveland.

Mr. George Hawks, of Bennington, Vt., is the owner of the Orderly Book of his ancestor Major John Hawks of the Massachusetts Militia, who served on Lake George and Lake Champlain in 1759 and 1760. It covers about 200 manuscript pages. Mr. Hawks will deposit the diary with the Deerfield Historical Association.

A document found recently in the archives of Pontebedra parish mentioned that place as having been the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. It thus bears out the claim that the discoverer of America was a Spaniard and not a native of Genoa.

The document contains a description of the burial of Columbus and states that the Duke of Veragua, descendant of the mariner, had sold in the eighteenth century the lands on which stood the building where Columbus was born.

A roll of the Revolutionary soldiers in the company of Capt. Jost Dygert has been worked out by Frank D. Deuel of Schenectady and has been printed in the St. Johnsville (N. Y.) *Enterprise and News* for January 9, 1929.

Miss Helen A. Hay, Brooklyn, N. Y., a great-great granddaughter of Col. A. H. Hay of the American Revolution, has prepared a manuscript on the Andre-Arnold episode in American history.

Among the recent accessions of the Library of Congress are the Horace Greeley Papers, consisting of manuscripts, scrap-books and clippings, 1826–72; the George P. Morris Papers, 1832–62; the manuscript of William S. Lovell's journal of cruises to the Arctic, 1850–51 and 1855; and seven volumes of newspaper

clippings and prints relating to Lafayette's tour in America, 1824–25, compiled by Benjamin Thomas Hill. During the year 1927–28 the library also received:

Lincoln's family Bible, the Bible on which he took his oath of office in 1861, and a medal given Mrs. Lincoln by 40,000 French citizens; a brass horn book of 1729 used in England; a collection of American almanacs going back to 1770; letters of Lafayette; muster rolls of American Loyalists; Washington's diary of 1762 and letters.

The State Library has received as a gift from Anna M. Stetson Hughson of Loudonville, N. Y., the manuscript diary kept by her father Major William Mitchell Stetson during his service with the Northern Army 1861–64. He enlisted at Albany, April 15, 1861, in the 99th N. Y. Vols. The diary consists of 486 legal size pages. With the diary were donated two parchment commissions.

MUSEUMS, HISTORICAL MONUMENTS AND REMAINS

The interesting announcement has been made that funds have been contributed for the restoration of the old Revolutionary Forts, Montgomery and Clinton on the west bank of the Lower Hudson as a part of the Bear Mountain Park. Restoration is in charge of Major Wm. Addams Welch.

The Supervisors of Franklin County have appropriated $700 with which to mark the graves of all the soldiers of all wars buried in the county. The project will be carried out under the supervision of County Historian E. C. Rider and a committee.

The Historical Commission of Pennsylvania is making a survey of Indian sites by cooperating with the postmasters, local officials and regional historical societies. Miss Frances Dorrance of Wilkes Barre, Pa., is chairman of this sub-committee.

The Board of Supervisors of Montgomery County have appropriated $1000 for a historical monument to be erected near the old Court House at Fonda.

The *New York Times*, of November 9, 1928, gives an account of the discovery of an historic painting in New York City. It is

supposed to be a contemporary painting of Frederick the Great and was identified by Karl Loevenich, an art dealer.

Efforts are being made to assure the safety as a museum article of the mammoth Old Burden Water Wheel erected in 1836 and still standing in the south end of Troy, N. Y.

The City History Club of New York has erected a number of markers in and about Greater New York during the past year.

The effort to raise money to save Old Ironsides is being actively pushed by a committee headed by Rear Admiral Philip Andrews. For this purpose a series of souvenirs have been made to be sold. Information may be obtained from Admiral Andrews, Navy Yard, Boston, Mass.

Rochester Municipal Museum has acquired an old Swales plow made at Sodus, N. Y., December 13, 1819. It has a wooden share covered with sheet iron and an iron point.

Thomas Anbury's *Travels* was recently offered for sale by a London book dealer for $30 and a pamphlet of 1622 on the Dutch West India Company for $1000. Peter Kalm's *Travels* was priced at $35.

At Nairobi, Kenya Colony, Africa, the East African Archaeological Expedition has unearthed a complete skeleton of a man claimed to be "the earliest modern man." The search is going forward for other specimens.

New York is not the only state in which it is difficult to save historic buildings from the ruthless hand of progress. It is reported that Longfellow's home at Pittsfield, Mass., will be demolished. At Hartford, Conn., an effort to raise funds to save the Mark Twain home was unsuccessful.

A bust of Alexander Hamilton in the Hall of Fame at New York University was stolen early in January, 1929. It is believed that it was a prank of students and that it will be returned. Hamilton was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1815 and the bust was unveiled in 1923.

The Fort Plain D. A. R. Chapter has erected a memorial consisting of a huge boulder with a large bronze plate. It commemorated the important happenings at Fort Plain during the Revolution and was unveiled and dedicated with impressive ceremonies.

The Otsquago Trail was opened with public exercises at Fort Plain on October 22, 1928. Citizens of Fort Plain and Cooperstown joined in the celebration. Prominent citizens of both places made addresses and at Van Hornesville Owen D. Young delivered the chief address of the day.

Through the persistent efforts of Local Historian Dr. Frederick S. Parkhurst, of Kenmore, N. Y., that village now has a library and museum combined to serve the people of that region for many years to come.

The New York Development Association with headquarters at Watertown has taken up an active canvas for historic sites and buildings which will be marked with metal markers supplied by the State.

The Spanish-American War exhibit opened to the public has attracted thousands of visitors showing how popular historical articles are. This exhibit was given by the Director of the State Museum at Albany. The materials came from many sources.

Sanford L. Cluett of Troy, according to an account in the *Record* for Aug. 27, 1928, has "discovered" the western redoubt which completed the fortification made on Peobles or Hauver Island, just south of Waterford, by Gen. Thaddeus Koscinszko to check the march of Gen. Burgoyne southward to capture Albany. The eastern and central redoubts have been known for some time, but not until the painstaking search was made by Mr. Cluett did this remaining portion of the breastworks come to light. Mr. Cluett's discovery was based on a map in a history of the Burgoyne Campaign prepared by H. C. Maine, editor of the *Troy Whig*, with the aid of certain well-informed old citizens of that region. Mr. Karl Ohman, chairman of the historic sites committee, first called attention to the value of the map for purposes of identification. Mr. Cluett is a member of the N. Y. S. H. A.

ANNIVERSARIES AND CELEBRATIONS

On November 22, 1928, the village of Canton celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the locating of the county seat of St. Lawrence county in that village. St. Lawrence county was organized in 1802 and from that time until 1828 its county seat was in Ogdensburg. In 1828, following two or three unsuccessful movements to change its location (one movement proposing the division of the county) and after commissioners appointed by the Legislature had examined the matter, Canton was selected.

The observance of the anniversary took the form of a public meeting in the court house at Canton in the afternoon and a dinner at the Club of Canton in the evening. At the public exercises in the afternoon the Hon. Ceylon G. Chaney, surrogate of the county and chairman of the general committee, presided. Addresses were delivered by the Hon. John C. Crapser, resident justice of the supreme court, by Andrew J. Hanmer, supervisor from the town of Massena, who spoke for the board of supervisors, and by Richard C. Ellsworth, secretary of St. Lawrence University, who delivered the historical address. Music was furnished by the St. Lawrence University orchestra and by the 'Varsity Male Quartette. At the dinner in the evening at which the Advertising Club of Canton entertained the members of the board of supervisors, and county officers, past and present, Charles M. Tait, county treasurer, presided. Addresses were delivered by Hon. James C. Dolan, county judge, by Hon. A. R. Herriman, former surrogate of the county, by Warren O. Daniels, supervisor from the town of Parishville, and by Dr. Richard E. Sykes, president of St. Lawrence University. The same organizations furnished the music in the evening. The general committee, representing Canton, in charge of the affair was as follows: Hon. Ceylon G. Chaney, chairman, Williston Manley, G. William Lewis, Clarence S. Cook, Rev. John A. Erickson, Charles M. Tait, Richard C. Ellsworth.

In connection with the semi-centennial of "the first step in forestry by the U. S. Government" there has been issued the *Forestry Primer* by Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Tree Association.

Elaborate plans are being made for the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the Revolution of the West. Representatives of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois have formed the Association for the Commemoration of the Revolution of the West. to cooperate with the federal George Rogers Clark Sesquicentennial Committee. It is proposed to erect a national memorial at Vincennes.

At the 64th Convocation of the University of the State of New York at Albany, Oct. 18–19, 1928, a superb statue of Joseph Henry was unveiled in front of the Boys Academy. William Gorham Rice presented the statue to Albany. Mayor John Boyd Thatcher accepted it, and the unveiling address was delivered by Dr. John H. Finley.

A movement has been started at Tarrytown, N.Y., by Local Historian Edgar Mayhew Bacon to hold a Sesquicentennial of the capture of Major Andre during the coming year 1930. A committee on plan and scope and on ways and means has been appointed.

The Trinity Lutheran Church at South Arabia, N. Y., will observe its 200th anniversary on June 2, 1929, and plans are now being made.

Efforts are underway to create a State Historic Park called Cawoga on the upper Mohawk.

An account of the dedication of the new Library of the University of Louvaine, Belgium, was given in a report of President Frank P. Graves to the Board of Regents and printed in the *Journal of Regents Meetings*, September 27, 1928.

On November 16, 1928, the City of Rome at a unique public meeting dedicated the historic monuments and markers recently erected by that city in conjunction with the State. Credit for supervising this work belongs to John A. Scott, author of *Fort Stanwix and Oriskany*. Addresses were made by Samuel H. Beach, Mrs. Geo. E. Bason, Edward H. Bright, Johnson D. McMahon, Michael J. Larkin, and A. C. Flick.

LOCAL HISTORIANS

Conference of Local Historians

The Conference of Local Historians and Local Historical Societies held at Watertown on September 30, 1928, as a part of the program of the New York State Historical Association was attended by a large and enthusiastic group from all parts of the State. President James Sullivan called the Conference to order and then turned the session over to State Historian. Dr. Flick asked Dr. Sullivan to explain to the Conference the origin of the office of local historian. After this the Conference was opened for a general discussion of the problems confronting local historians and historical societies. Experiences were given; questions were asked and answered; and a general exchange of opinions on a wide range of topics ensued. Among those who took a more active part were: Dr. Frederick S. Parkhurst of Kenmore, N. Y., who explained how the office of local historian had grown in usefulness in his village; Mrs. Nora Cruikshank who told of the cooperation of the Jefferson County Historical Society with the public schools; Miss Meda Cox of Rochester who gave an account of her work as local historian; Mr. Boyd McDowell of Elmira who described his discovery of the local village records and his task copying them; Mr. Corse of Sandy Creek who has printed many local records; Mr. William H. Arnold of Chemung county narrated his labors as county historian; Mr. J. Frank Morgan of Dexter gave some excellent advice on how to gather World War records; Mr. Ellsworth of Canton explained the methods he employed in obtaining valuable manuscripts; and Col. John W. Vrooman gave some fatherly advice about the value of history in general. Mr. Charles Maar of Albany outlined a plan for getting more local history taught in the public schools. Dr. F. W. Putnam of Binghamton explained how he had made more than a hundred volumes of clippings from newspapers and pamphlets covering the recent history of Broome County, N. Y. Others discussed the care of neglected cemteries and the best methods of copying tombstone records; the gathering of local genealogical data; the preservation of the reminiscences of old people; the preservation of public, private, school and church records; the printing of local records; the marking of historic sites and buildings; the value of local celebrations; the need of county historians; the collection of

museum materials; the saving of old farm machinery, household utensils, furniture, clothing, articles of personal adornment, tools, factory machinery, books, pictures, etc. The chairman was obliged to close the Conference after a two hour session with interest at white heat, in order to give way to the business session of the Association. These annual round table discussions are proving to be both delightful and profitable.

Regional Meetings of Local Historians

The initial meeting of the local historians of Fulton and Montgomery counties was held in Fonda on Tuesday evening, November 20. The following people were in attendance: Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Flick, Hugh M. Flick and Irving S. Adler, Albany; Fonda was represented by Mrs. William T. Van Dusen, Mayor and Mrs. Harry MacNeil, J. E. Wyman and E. Corning Davis; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mayfield; Mrs. Frank Rupert and Mrs. J. V. Miller, Gloversville; Arthur Lyker, Root; Mr. and Mrs. N. Berton Alter, Nelliston; Oscar N. Clark, Ruth Clark, Fort Johnson; Edith Laning, Stone Arabia; Harry V. Bush, Canajoharie; Mr. and Mrs. L. N. Vedder, Fultonville; Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Greene, Fort Plain.

After the supper, which was served at Maze's Hotel, an informal discussion took place. Mrs. Van Dusen, Montgomery County Historian, greeted the guests and called upon Mayor Harry MacNeil for a word of welcome. Miss Laning asked that more attention be given the Battle of Stone Arabia and suggested the marking of the Battlefield. N. Berton Alter proposed that a suitable memorial be erected to John Bowdish for his services in connection with the system of free schools in this State. Mrs. L. N. Vedder told of a zinc figure of an Indian to be erected near the shrine at Auriesville and Mrs. J. V. Miller told of a boulder and tablet erected at Kingsboro last July in memory of the pioneers of that section. Mrs. Frank Brown spoke of many interesting places in Mayfield that will be submerged when the Conklingville dam is completed, and several suggestions were made as to the marking of these spots. Nelson Greene of Fort Plain told of the work being done in that section of Montgomery county, and of the large number of historic places designated for marking. Harry V. Bush then spoke of the number of places to be marked in Canajo-

harie and vicinity, and told of the plans made for next year when the anniversary of the Sullivan Campaign will be celebrated, also the one hundredth anniversary of the incorporation of Canajoharie. Hugh M. Flick spoke and urged greater care in protecting the public records of the State, and pointed out the fact that it would be impossible to write accurate history unless authentic records are available. E. Corning Davis told the group of two shingles now in his possession that were originally on the roof of the home of "Peggy" Wemple.

At eight o'clock the meeting moved over to the auditorium of the high school. Dr. A. C. Flick then gave a talk in his usual interesting and genial manner. He was most enthusiastic as he told how his attention had recently been called to an attic in an old farmhouse near Glens Falls in which he had obtained several old trunks filled with documents and old clothes. These are now in the headquarters building of the New York State Historical Association at Ticonderoga. Dr. Flick made an earnest appeal to the local historians and all others interested to fill out a marker application, or in fact any number of applications, to have the State mark all historic sites in every community. He reminded them of the fund that the Legislature appropriated for that purpose and made plain that if the communities do not take advantage of it now, it is unlikely that they will ever have another opportunity. Dr. Flick then outlined in a most concise and clear way the entire Sullivan Campaign of 1779, bringing out the fact that the Mohawk Valley had a part in this movement and urging the people of the valley to see that proper recognition is taken of it. He also brought out the very important point that this campaign was not one of revenge, as is sometimes supposed, but showed that it was one of keen military strategy. Following Dr. Flick's talk Harry V. Bush gave an illustrated lecture on the Mohawk Valley. Mr. Bush has a very fine collection of slides which are of unusual interest, and he described each one with clarity.

The meeting was unquestionably a success—so much so that every one present felt that an annual meeting of this kind should be held.

I. S. A.

COMMUNICATION

"Uncle Sam" Wilson, the Trojan: Absurdities in Recent Historical Monographs

The Quarterly Journal, for April 1928, pages 208–209, quotes from an article in the *Indiana History Bulletin* regarding Uncle Sam Wilson from whose familiar appellation our government is believed to have derived its nickname.

[The *Bulletin* article referred to the supposed discovery in Noble county, Ind., of the grave of Samuel Wilson, "from whose nickname, 'Uncle Sam,' the sobriquet of the United States is said to have been derived," stated that Samuel Wilson was born in Wilmington, Del., in 1778, went with his brother on the Lewis and Clarke expedition of 1804 as far as Mandan, N. D., later "returned" to Troy and secured employment with Elbert Anderson, who operated a general supply store which during the War of 1812 was converted into government supply headquarters, and died March 7, 1878, in Indiana. The editorial comment of the Quarterly Journal called attention to the Anna M. Plum Memorial Building in Troy and quoted the inscription formerly to be found in that building. Editor.]

None of these statements are substantiated by facts. In 1793 the Samuel Wilson who built a house on Ferry Street, Troy, was not the youth born in Delaware in 1778, therefore only fifteen years of age. The Trojan Samuel Wilson was born near Boston, Mass., at West Cambridge. He was the son of Edward and Lucy Francis Wilson and born September 16, 1766. His parents moved to Mason, N. H., in 1780; and to Troy, 1804; where their sons Ebenezer and Samuel had settled in 1789.

That Ebenezer and his brother Samuel were members of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, which left St. Louis about May 4, 1804, reached the Pacific coast in November 1805 and returned to St. Louis in September 1806, is an absurd claim. Both brothers were in Troy busy in building up a slaughtering and beef-packing establishment, advertising in 1805 that they "can kill, cut and pack 150 head of cattle per day." Elbert Anderson was at no time a resident of Troy nor did he operate a store in that city at any time.

The Plum Memorial Building was at no time the residence of Samuel Wilson, having been built several decades after his death. The original frame building which it is supposed was built by Samuel Wilson and in which he lived for some years was de-

molished in 1891. Samuel Wilson died in a house on the south side of Ferry Street, near Seventh, on July 31, 1854. Obituaries stated that he was the man whose familiar nickname gave the United States government the sobriquet of "Uncle Sam." His wife outlived him about nine years. She was the daughter of Colonel Benjamin Mann of Mason, N. H., and later of Troy. Obituaries of Betsy Mann Wilson stated that she was the relict of the Samuel Wilson of "Uncle Sam" fame.

Samuel Wilson was originally buried in Mount Ida Cemetery, Troy, but now his grave and that of his wife are in Oakwood Cemetery, almost in the shadow of the great monolith that marks the grave of General John E. Wool. The three books by Arthur J. Weise on the history of Troy contain valuable data on this Wilson family. In the lease to Samuel Wilson in 1793 for land on Ferry Street his name is spelled Willson. In 1816 he still used this form but later all the family became known as Wilsons.

During the past twenty years the writer has collected a mass of information on this pioneer family, authentic information from deeds, leases, wills and newspapers.

Jessie F. Wheeler

Van Wie Family

The Van Wie family Bible was presented to the State Historian and by him transferred to the State Library. It contains the following data.

Marriages

Peter Van Wie and Abigal Vandenbergh, Dec. 30, 1774
Garrit P. Van Wie and Caty Vanderheyden, Sept. 22, 1804
Abraham Brookes and Agness Van Wie, July 9, 1809
Peleg Noyes and Mary Ann Van Wie, Oct. 28, 1828
David Defreest and Hellen D. R. Becker, April 7, 1828
Barry Holinbake and Carrie A. Becker, Dec. 17, 1818
Peter Van Wie and Cathaline B. Staats, March 16, 1847

Births

Children of Peter and Abigal Van Wie
Hanry, b. Nov. 8, 1776
Garrit, b. Dec. 7, 1778
Wm., b. Oct. 20, 1780
Agness, b. Dec. 3, 1782
Peter, b. Sept. 9, 1785

Caty Vanderheyden, b. Dec. 20, 1781
Children of Garrit and Caty Van Wie
Wm., b. Dec. 25, 1805 (Sunday)
Mary Ann, b. July 5, 1807 (Saturday)
Abigal, b. Dec. 28, 1809 (Thursday)
Rachel, b. April 9, 1812 (Thursday)
Peter, b. May 6, 1814 (Friday)
John, b. April 27, 1816 (Saturday)
Children of Peleg and Mary Noyes.
William Bell, b. Aug. 31, 1829 (Monday)
John Vanderheyden, b. June 19, 1831 (Sunday)
Lydia Celestine, b. Aug. 14, 1833 (Wednesday)
Gerret P. Van Wie, b. Sept. 12, 1835 (Saturday)
Seth Hastings, b. Sept. 16, 1839 (Monday)
Catherine Van Der Heyden, b. Sept. 19, 1843 (Tuesday)
Garrit D. Van Wie, b. May 6, 1848 (Saturday)
John Van der Heyden Van Wie, b. Sept. 3, 1850 (Tuesday)
Catherine B. Van Wie, b. April 1, 1853 (Friday)
Jack Dickson, b. 1801, first Sunday in July
Nancy, his sister, b. 1803, middle of July, Monday

Deaths

William Van Wie, d. Jan. 10, 1805—26 yr., 2 mo., 20 da.
William Van Wie, d. Dec. 11, 1808—2 yr., 11mo., 15 da.
Gerrit P. Van Wie, d. April 20, 1818—39 yr., 4 mo., 13 da.
Abigail Van Wie, d. Nov. 5, 1818
Agness Brooks, d. Feb. 29, 1832
John Van der Heyden Van Wie, d. Nov. 3, 1840—24 yr., 6 mo., 7 da.
Caty Van Wie, d. April 5, 1857—75 yr., 3 mo., 15 da.
Ann Van Den Heyden, d. March 23, 1820—68 yr.
Isaac Van Den Heyden, d. Oct. 23, 1822—36 yr.
John Van Denhuyden, d. March 30, 1823
Catherine B. Van Wie, d. Aug. 29, 1855—2 yr., 4 mo., 29 da.
Maria Van Denhuyden, d. Dec. 3, 1857
Peleg Noyes, d. May 1885—93 yr.
Rachel V. D. H. Van Wie, d. April 1, 1860—48 yr.
Mary A., wife of Peleg Noyes, d. Feb. 11, 1868—60 yr., 7 mo.
Helen Defreest, d. March 26, 1867—58 yr.

Abigal Van Wie, d. Aug. 12, 1868—58 yr., 7 mo., 15 da.
Seth Hastings Smith, d. July 15, 1876—13 yr., 5 mo.
Peter Van Wie, d. March 15, 1886—71 yr.
Seth H. Noyes, d. July 14, 1885—46 yr.
Cathaline B. Staats, wife of Peter Van Wie, d. Oct. 16, 1898 (mother of Gary and John)

A memorandum on a separate sheet: Isacc [sic] Van Derheyden, son of John and Nancy Van Derheyden, born the 16 day of August, 1785.

Another memorandum signed by Abigail Van Wie states: "My father in law died in the year 1798 March 3rd. Due Caty $166.66½ three years after her father death. Interest for one year of $166.66½ is $11.66."

The Peter Van Wie farm of 119 acres was located in the town of Bethlehem, Albany county, and in 1888 was in the possession of Albertus W. Becker.

A. C. F.

THE NECESSITY OF AN ENDOWMENT FOR THE N. Y. S. H. A.

The New York State Historical Association has come of age. It has passed its twenty-fifth birthday and should assume all the responsibilities of vigorous manhood. Thanks to the generosity of one of our trustees, Mr. Horace A. Moses, we own a home which is our headquarters building and houses a library and a small museum. Through the foresight of this same friend of the Association we have an endowment of $100,000 to provide for the upkeep of this splendid building.

The time has arrived, however, when we must either stand still and merely play with our tasks or go after an endowment which will permit us to do the real work of a State Association. Our membership fees are not sufficient to meet the present overhead. If we increased our membership several thousand we would not be confronted by a deficit, but even then we would have little margin to increase our library, to build up a first class State Historical Museum, and to carry out a constructive, state-wide program for the salvaging of our history.

Other State Historical Societies and even local and regional organizations have large income-producing endowments. Just to cite a few examples:

Albany Institute of History and Art has an endowment of	$192,000.00
New England Society in New York City	190,000.00
New York Genealogical and Biographical Society	200,000.00
New York Historical Society	1,000,000.00
Oneida Historical Society	40,000.00
Onondaga Historical Association	80,500.00
American Antiquarian Society	392,000.00
Western Reserve Historical Society	345,000.00
Massachusetts Historical Society	500,000.00

The New York State Historical Association is a quasi-public institution. It is not for the glorification of any single individual or any group of persons. It is not any man's hobby. It was organized more than a quarter of a century ago by representatives of all parts of the State for the purpose of awakening a deeper and a wider interest in the history of New York. Its annual PROCEEDINGS and the QUARTERLY JOURNAL now number 27 volumes of historical documents, addresses, papers, notes and book reviews. These volumes are now eagerly sought by libraries and private collectors. Its annual meetings held in various parts of the State have brought together many thousands of persons who are devoted to the preservation of the State's history. The Association has been the means of having erected numerous historical markers and monuments on historic sites and buildings, and in honor of New York's distinguished sons and daughters. It has helped to secure for public educational purposes battlefields and old buildings with important associations. It has encouraged sensible celebrations and observances of anniversaries of epoch-making events. It has stimulated and encouraged the translation of our Dutch records into English and the publication of local and State records. It has cooperated with the schools and colleges in having the contributions of the Empire State to the American Nation better understood. It has advised in the formation of historical libraries and of historical museums. These activities have amply justified its existence. Its members now represent nearly all of the 62 counties in the State.

The opportunities before the Association for service are greater today than ever before. But the limited income will not at present allow the Association to function as constructively and actively as it should. Historical surveys should be made. Manuscripts, diaries, letters, account books, early pamphlets and newspapers should be obtained before they are taken out of the State as so many of them have already been. Clothing, jewelry, agricultural implements, household utensils, factory machinery, and tools of the earlier days should be rescued before they disappear forever. Local and state records, and private recollections should be printed in order to save them. So long as single copies exist there is danger that a fire, a flood, mildew or theft may cause their complete loss. Once printed, however, they are safe, for it is unlikely that all copies will be destroyed. Historical markers and monuments should be erected in accordance with some systematic plan. Battlegrounds should be saved as historic parks. Old buildings that are typical of the architecture and life of the past should be preserved. Established historical museums should be enlarged and new ones started. Cooperation with schools and colleges, churches, patriotic societies and clubs should be carried on. Historical and genealogical research should be encouraged and aided. Historic guide books and maps for New York should be prepared for public use. Old paintings and photographs and prints should be salvaged and placed where the people could use them. The reminiscences of the old people in every community should be recorded before they are lost forever. The old graveyards should be cleaned up and put in a respectable condition. Well-qualified persons should be encouraged to write up the history of the past and there should be a series of publications in which their work might appear. And our QUARTERLY should be enlarged and better edited.

These activities cannot be carried out without funds. An endowment is imperative. Our genial and competent secretary, Fred. B. Richards, has performed almost a miracle in keeping the machinery of the Association going with our small income. Now that he has issued an appeal for an endowment every friend of history should answer the call. One of our trustees has voluntarily forwarded a check for $1,000 to start the endowment. A hundred members by following his example would give us an en-

dowment of $100,000, which should be our first goal. When that is raised we can go after another $100,000. Nothing succeeds like success. Once we demonstrate by our fruits how endowment funds may be used for the good of the State, additional bequests will come in. Friends will remember the Association in their wills and contribute while alive.

The American Historical Association is seeking to raise an endowment of $1,000,000 to enlarge its usefulness. Surely the New York State Historical Association may modestly ask for a fund of $100,000 to supplement the gift already made by Mr. Moses.